

Handwritten note: "Opinion 150"

Weekend

FINANCIAL TIMES

Weekend FT Turkey stirred by missing son



Royalty - Belgian heirs and grouches



Golf for all seasons



SECTION II World Business News

WEEKEND MAY 11/12 1996

US lifts threat of sanctions against China

Washington last night withdrew its threat to impose sanctions on China for allegedly exporting nuclear weapons-related technology.

UK shares chase Wall Street higher

Reassuring US producer price data cheered Wall Street and gave UK shares a shot in the arm.

Australia in guns crackdown

Australian state governments agreed on national gun controls in the wake of last month's Port Arthur gun massacre.

Uganda elections President Yoweri Museveni looked on course for an overwhelming victory

Uganda's presidential election, Paul Ssemogerere, head of the main opposition Democratic Party, rejected the results.

US wheat crop gloom American farmers are set to reap their poorest winter wheat crop for 18 years

The US Agriculture Department said. With only 1.26bn bushels in prospect, it will take a big autumn harvest to prevent a surge in food prices.

French police mount raids: French police rounded up 47 suspected Islamic militants

thought to be involved in supplying false identity papers. The Interior Ministry said the crackdown was aimed at stopping production of false official papers used by Islamic militants in France.

Hindu party aims to form coalition: The Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata party, the biggest party after India's general election, claimed it would manage to form a coalition government

but the Left Front-National Front alliance said it would also seek to form a majority coalition.

Armani seeks deal Italian designer Giorgio Armani was given a nine-month suspended prison sentence and ordered to pay £1.0m (\$64,000) when a bribery trial of the country's top fashion designers reopened after months of delays.

Search for missing boat Danish and Polish aircraft joined a Swedish search team looking for a Lithuanian boat which disappeared in stormy weather in the Baltic sea with 12 people aboard.

Gdansk workers protest: Workers at Poland's Gdansk shipyard, home of the Solidarity movement, protested to demand overdue wages and government help to stave off bankruptcy at the state-controlled company.

Dear Michael... German finance minister Theo Waigel has written to Michael Jackson begging the American pop star to reconsider his decision to cancel a concert tour.

Companies in this issue

Table listing companies and their page numbers: ASN Amro 6, 22; Amcor 5; BET 6; Brightstone 6; British Gas 6; Clarke Nickolls 6; Credit Foncier 6; Dasa 2; Foster's Brewing 5; Hanson 5; Hansell Whiting 5; Ilti 6; Kvaerner 5, 22; Midara Glass 5.

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Brussels sets 'lax' limits on petrol additives

Proposals on air quality fall short of strict US standards

By Bruce Clark in Brussels. The European Commission has proposed rules on petrol additives that fall far short of standards in force in the US and Scandinavia.

A draft directive, prepared by the Commission after three years' research into ways of improving the air quality in European cities, has been denounced by Green campaigners as an ecological step backwards.

Commission experts said Europe's air quality crisis was not caused by the same substances as the pollution problem in the US, and so limits on some additives did not need to be as strict.

The directive, still confidential but widely leaked, sets an upper limit in petrol of aromatics, a group of petrochemicals that includes some carcinogens, of 45 per cent, against a maximum in the US and Finland of 30 per cent, and a current EU average of 40 per cent.

The directive would also cut from 2.7 per cent to 2.3 per cent the permitted oxygen content in petrol, disappointing environmentalists who see oxygenates as the best substances to cut emissions of carbon monoxide.

In the US, Finland and Sweden, governments have encouraged the use of oxygenates as a substitute for aromatics.

Ms Heidi Hautala, a Finnish member of the European Parliament, said the directive appeared to reflect pressure from the leading oil companies.

"There is good reason to ask what pressures made the Commission set standards at such a low level," she said, adding that the European assembly would almost certainly use its power to amend the draft.

Mr Gijis Kunsteman, director of the European Federation for Transport and Environment, said the directive was far too lax and he feared the Strasbourg assembly would not change it much.

But Mr Patrick Murphy, the head of a Commission team involved in drafting the directive, insisted that the proposed rules provided a fair balance between cost and environmental safety.

He said that by setting an upper limit of 45 per cent for aromatics, the directive would probably force the average level down to around 37 per cent.

Mr Murphy said high levels of oxygen and lower levels of aromatics were more appropriate in the US, where the most serious pollutant came from carbon monoxide. In Europe, he said, the worst problem came from nitrogen oxide, which could actually be worsened by the US practice of maximising oxygen content.

A spokesman for the European Petroleum Industry Association said carbon monoxide was "not the problem" in Europe. The US policy was "not the most effective way to reach higher air quality standards," he said.

On Monday, British government experts are expected to recommend a tightening of national and European Union controls on particulate emissions from trucks, cars and industry.

Lloyd's raises offer to hard-hit Names. Lloyd's of London last night moved significantly closer to securing its long-term future after unveiling a final, improved out-of-court offer to loss-making and litigating Names.

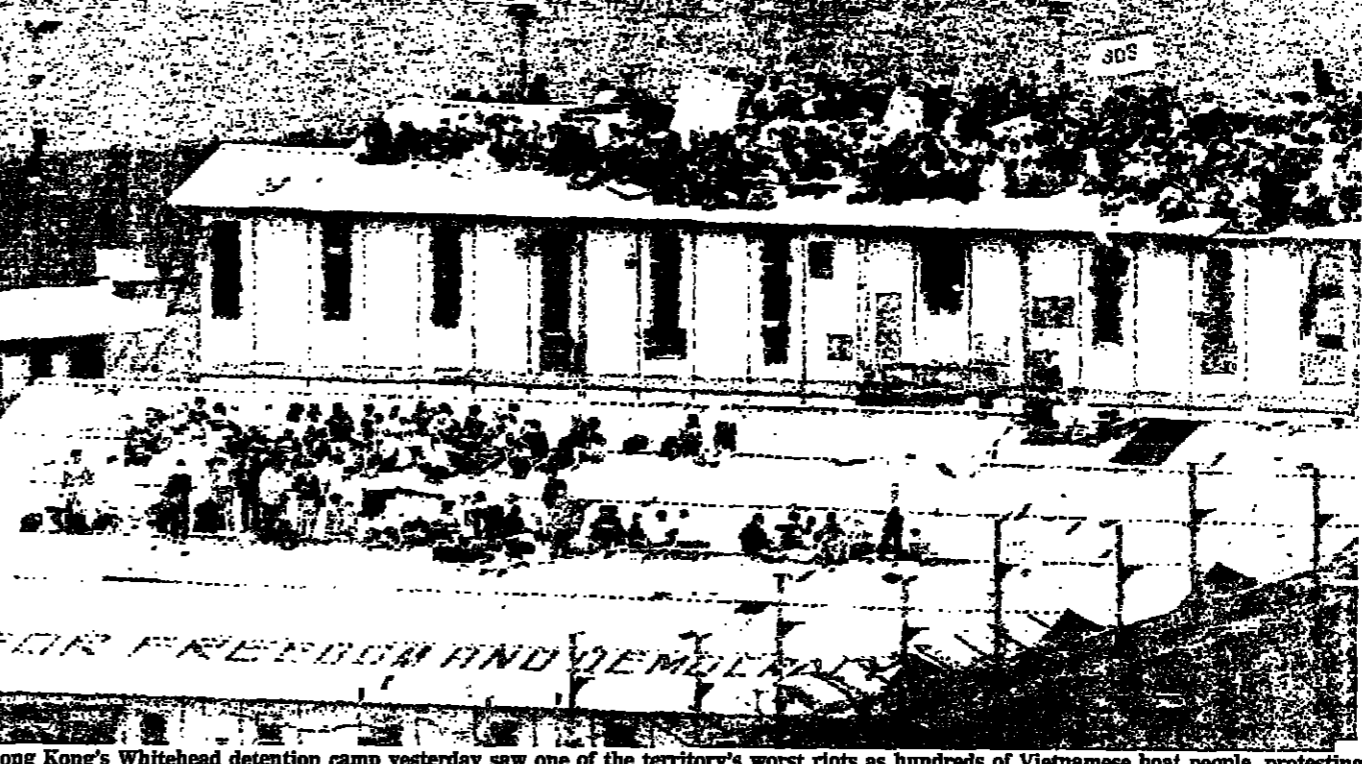
The revised deal was welcomed by a broad range of Names - individuals whose assets have traditionally supported the insurance market - suggesting the recovery plan would receive the support necessary for its implementation this summer.

That raised the prospect of Lloyd's finally ending most of the legal actions and financial problems which have blighted the market after losses of more than \$5bn in recent years.

One leading Names' representative said: "It is over. The deal is done." The revised plan is worth an extra £1.2bn (\$1.82bn) to the 34,000 Names. Lloyd's has increased the out-of-court settlement from £2.8bn to £3.1bn. In addition, the UK's Department of Trade and Industry, which supervises Lloyd's, has agreed that only an additional £1bn need be raised from Names to fund its recovery vehicle, Equitas, compared with the expected £1.9bn.

Equitas will take responsibility for billions of pounds of outstanding US asbestos and pollution-related liabilities, creating a clean "new" Lloyd's. The number of Names who will receive payouts under the plan

Boat people riot against repatriation from Hong Kong



Hong Kong's Whitehead detention camp yesterday saw one of the territory's worst riots as hundreds of Vietnamese boat people, protesting against repatriation, escaped and others took guards hostage and set buildings on fire. The hostages were later freed. Report, Page 2

Sumitomo to cut its lending and asset base

By Gerard Baker in Tokyo. Sumitomo Bank, one of the largest in Japan, signalled the end of an era in Japanese finance yesterday, unveiling a plan to cut its lending to strengthen its balance sheet.

For years, Japanese banks were motivated by an unquenchable thirst for growth, a stance that eventually fuelled Japan's bubble economy, the period of sharp increases in asset prices in the late 1980s.

The policy also led to friction in international financial markets in the 1980s as Japanese banks drove down lending rates in an effort to increase market share. Since the bubble burst in 1991, the top Japanese banks have been burdened with huge balances of non-performing loans, but have until now shied away from serious retrenchment.

Sumitomo said yesterday it aimed to reduce its total assets by up to ¥2,500bn (\$23.5bn), 5 per cent of the total, over the next three years.

"Sumitomo intends to remain a leading bank by the standards of the world's leading financial institutions," a spokesman said. "To achieve that we need to improve our basic capital strength."

The bank gave no details of how it would implement such a sharp cut in its assets, but officials confirmed it was reviewing all its operations, at home and abroad.

Sumitomo has already said it plans to restructure its operations in response to its asset quality problems, a move expected to result in reductions in branches and staff numbers.

In January, the Long Term Credit Bank of Japan said it would cut back its lending and other smaller banks have retreated from overseas markets. The

14 US troops die in air crash during joint exercise with UK

By Bernard Gray in Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. The largest Anglo-American military operation since the end of the Gulf war began with a tragedy yesterday when 14 US marines were killed in a collision between two helicopters.

The accident happened as a massed helicopter and amphibious landing exercise involving 38,000 US troops and 15,000 British personnel got under way last night.

As the troops swarmed from their landing craft and helicopters towards the North Carolina coast, a US CH-46 "Sea Knight" transport helicopter carrying 14 marines collided with a US AH-1W "Cobra" attack helicopter with a crew of two over a thickly wooded area near the beach landing site at 2am local time.

Pentagon officials said the pilot of the CH-46 helicopter was criti-

cally injured, but that the co-pilot escaped with cuts and bruises.

Wreckage from the accident is spread across a wide area and accident investigators were quickly on the scene to determine the cause of the crash.

Air operations in the exercise were immediately suspended, substantially disrupting the Normandy landing style of operation which has been four years in the planning. As daylight rose on the Carolina coast, flags of the two armed armadas of ships in the bay were ordered to be flown at half mast as a mark of respect.

The accident happened during intense air and sea traffic movements. To simulate the black-out conditions of a genuine amphibious invasion, all helicopters ferrying troops from the assault ships to the beachhead were being flown without main lights using night-vision goggles.

However, in a sad irony, all the landing ships and helicopters were displaying small navigation lights in an attempt to prevent exactly the kind of collision which seems to have occurred.

The exercise, codenamed Purple Star, is designed to show how closely the UK and US can co-operate to complete even the most complex of missions using air, land and sea forces.

In a battle plan which mimicked the 1945 D-Day landing, British troops attacked two beaches within the Camp Lejeune exercise area, with US forces assaulting two adjacent sites. Combined with attacks by airborne troops, helicopters and special forces, the landing's aim is to secure a bridgehead for a mass invasion. It is the focal point of the month-long exercise.

However, with 26 US ships, led by the nuclear-powered aircraft

Continued on Page 22

Table listing various sections and their page numbers: News 2, 3; International News 2, 3; UK News 4; Weather 22; Lead 22; Features 3; Leader Page 3; Letters 8; Main in the News 9; Companies 5; Companies & Finance 5; Markets 5; FT-SE Actuaries 19; FT/SE-A Wid Indices 17; Foreign Exchanges 10; Gold Markets 7; Equity Options 17; US LUNCHTIME RATES 5 1/2%; 3-m Treas Bills: Yld 5.102%; Long Bond 6.896%; Yield 6.896%; NORTH SEA OIL (Argus) Brent Dated \$19.23 (19.41); STERLING New York lunchtime \$ 1.5205; London \$ 1.5226 (1.5233); DM 2.3217 (2.3103); FFf 7.8866 (7.8305); SFR 1.894 (1.8841); Y 160.401 (159.542); S Index 94.7 (94.4); DOLLAR New York lunchtime DM 1.52705; FFf 5.1875 (5.1409); SFR 1.2444 (1.2371); Y 105.425; London DM 1.5249 (1.5189); FFf 5.1867 (5.1409); SFR 1.2444 (1.2371); Y 105.36 (104.740); Tokyo close Y 104.9

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JP 11/15/96

Mexican cement group and Canadian mining company hit by new measure US to bar executives with Cuba links

By Nancy Durne in Washington and Richard Adams in London

Senior business executives and their families are to be barred from entering the US if their companies have traded using property confiscated from US nationals in Cuba.

US government officials say guidelines will be released within the next few weeks detailing who is liable to be denied entry for "trafficking" under the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act.

Title IV of the act, known as Helms-Burton after its congressional sponsor, gives the state department the power to deny entry to any "corporate officer, principal, or shareholder with a controlling interest" of any organisation which has been involved in trading or investing in confiscated property since March 12, when the act came into force. Title IV also bans entry to the "spouse, minor child, or agent" of those barred.

Officials declined to comment upon the number of companies involved, but it could run to several hundred. The largest include Cemex, a big Mexican cement manufacturer, and Sheritt, the Canadian mining company that oper-

I DON'T FANCY YOUR CHANCES OF GETTING PAST US IMMIGRATION



ROGER BEALE

ates a nickel plant in Cuba. Officials in Brussels said that more than 200 joint ventures had been identified as having benefited since March from investment in Cuba, but that it was difficult to gauge how many of them were linked to former US interests.

US officials admit the state department will need to be careful to define the scope of those involved. "Agent" could include lawyers or accountants acting for a corporation or its executives.

The state department is compiling a list of joint ventures

with Cuban and foreign companies from a range of sources, including embassy intelligence and public information. The list will be checked against the 5,911 property claims against the Cuban government by US citizens, finalised in 1972. Officials say about 800 of those claims are relevant under the act.

Those identified as having trafficked will be notified by mail and given 45 days notice of their exclusion. Those excluded can appeal to the state department. Exclusion will not be permanent, and will be dropped as soon as the party ends its use of the property.

Under another provision of the law, US citizens or companies can sue foreign companies profiting from property or investments they once owned which were confiscated by Havana. This provision can be waived by the US president for six month periods, beginning on July 15. The president can not waive the Title IV provisions barring individuals and their families from entering the US.

The act was approved by President Bill Clinton in the aftermath of Cuba's shooting down of two US civilian planes earlier this year. With the US

presidential elections in November, Mr Clinton is sensitive to the need for expatriate Cuban support and funding in crucial states such as Florida.

The act has already received fierce criticism from US trading partners, including the European Union and Britain, infuriated by the "extraterritorial" application of the law. The EU has demanded consultations under the World Trade Organisation and a number of countries have enacted "blocking" statutes to forbid co-operation with the US law.

Mr Ian Taylor, the UK trade and industry minister, last week bemoaned the scope of the law which could "ban a five-year-old child from visiting Disneyland if one of its parents was linked to a company potentially affected by the legislation."

Mr Klaus Kinkel, Germany's foreign minister, has warned the US could face retaliatory measures from the EU if third countries suffered. He said the EU would not allow Washington to penalise third parties for doing business with Cuba.

"The European Union would have to consider countermeasures that would in turn have a negative effect on American trade and investment interests in Europe," Mr Kinkel said.

Gore leaves Dole spinning in the wind

By Jurek Martin in Washington

The US presidential election may now be in its "phony war" phase, but President Bill Clinton's administration is rapidly refining its tactics against Senator Bob Dole, the presumed Republican candidate.

At its heart, it emerged yesterday, will be a concerted onslaught of damning with faint praise.

A classic demonstration was provided in the immediate wake of Senator Dole's sharp critique of US Asian policies on Thursday. This was a speech notable for the use of such mild expressions as "double-talk, incompetence, inconsistency, vacillation, and weakness."

Within an hour of Mr Dole sitting down, the call came out from the White House inviting a small group of reporters to a "round table" on foreign policy with Vice President Al Gore, designated spin master *du jour*.

The Gore message was that the Clinton camp was "grateful" for the "wisdom" the majority leader had just shown. He had nothing but nice things to say about Mr Dole's endorsement of Mr Clinton's determination to renew Most Favoured Nation trading

status for China and to threaten tough retaliation against Chinese violation of intellectual property rights.

The backs were a little non-plussed, but only when they pressed did Mr Gore begin to become a little political himself. "I think he showed courage in the middle of a campaign in rejecting the growing forces of isolationism and know-nothingism in the Republican Party," he said.

This neatly encapsulated Pat Buchanan, the rightwing polemicist who would do China no favours at all, and other conservatives in Congress prepared to vote against MFN. Mr Gore, of course, conveniently did not mention the opposition of liberal Democrats.

He then twisted the knife a little further by suggesting that Mr Dole either was unfamiliar with, or chose not to reveal his knowledge of, closer US co-operation over ballistic missile defences with Japan, Taiwan and South Korea.

This, reading from a crib-sheet, he provided in numbing acronymic detail comparable to Mr Dole's long litany of what the US should be doing militarily to help its Asian friends. In any case, Mr Gore went on, it was "no secret"

that many Republicans wanted to reopen "the full-blown star wars approach" of the Reagan era, at home or overseas.

As an exercise in spin, it was artful. It directly addressed Mr Dole's assertion that there were "vast and fundamental" foreign policy differences between Mr Clinton and himself by highlighting where they agreed.

It also sought to exploit some patent divisions inside the Republican Party between moderates and conservatives.

Not that he needed to do much of the latter given what Republicans have been saying about each other this week. Senator Al D'Amato of New York has taken to condemning the "philosophical ayatollahs" who control the House, while Congressman Peter King from the same state described its leadership, including Mr Newt Gingrich, the Speaker, as "anti-union hillbillies".

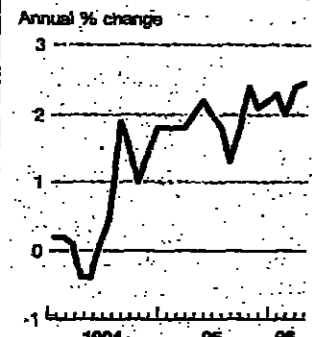
All this may mean nothing come November, but as a training exercise for the main event it shows the Democrats in far better trim than the opposition.

But Mr Gore might find it more strenuous if Gennady Zyuganov turns out to be the next president of Russia.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS DIGEST

Low inflation lifts US bonds

US producer prices



Source: Datastream

US bond prices rose sharply yesterday after the release of official figures showing that wholesale price inflation was more subdued than expected last month. The Labor Department said the producer price index for finished goods rose 0.4 per cent in the month and by 2.5 per cent in the year to April. However, excluding the volatile food and energy components, "core" producer prices rose only a marginal 0.1 per cent. Financial markets had expected gains of 0.5 per cent and 0.2 per cent respectively.

By late morning the benchmark Treasury 30 year bond had gained more than a point, pushing the yield down to 6.913 per cent. The small increase in core producer prices was seen as reducing the risk that the Federal Reserve would raise short-term interest rates at its next policy meeting on May 21.

Michael Prouse, Washington

Japanese budget is passed

Japan's parliament yesterday approved a ¥75,100bn (\$715bn) national budget, but the debate over its controversial centrepiece, a planned bailout of the country's bankrupt housing loan companies, seems set to continue for weeks. The upper house of parliament approved the budget despite protests by opposition members. Passage of the bill had been held up for six weeks by the battle over the bailout.

However, the proposal must surmount several more hurdles before it becomes law. The budget measure itself states that the money is to be released only after the establishment of a "framework" for dealing with the overall problems of the housing lenders, known as *jusen*.

Gerard Baker, Tokyo

KLM objects to Air France aid

Dutch airline KLM has joined SAS and Lufthansa in complaining to the EU Commission that Air France is using state aid money to fund cuts in air fares. The complaints add to the doubts over whether Mr Neil Kinnock, the EU transport commissioner, will next month allow Air France to receive a third and final state aid package of FF20bn (\$3.9bn).

Mr Kinnock is assessing whether Air France has met the conditions laid down when the second tranche of aid was approved earlier this year. These included a restructuring of the airline, but there are doubts about whether the airline has restructured enough.

Caroline Southey, Brussels

Geelong port to be privatised

Australia's state of Victoria is to sell Geelong port facilities to a consortium comprising TNT, the Australian transport group, and several international and domestic institutions, for A\$50.5m (US\$40.4m).

TNT, which has extensive road and rail operations in Australia, will become the port's new operator. Its fellow investor will be Infrastructure Investment Corporation, formed to invest in the growing number of private sector infrastructure projects in Australia.

Nikki Tsai, Sydney

Australia bans automatic guns

Australia's eight states and territories yesterday agreed a ban on automatic and semi-automatic rifles and shotguns. They will also adopt a uniform, national approach to the registration and licensing of guns. The agreement follows public outrage at the Port Arthur shootings last month, in which 35 people were killed in Australia's worst mass shooting by a single individual.

Nikki Tsai

COMPAGNIE DE PARTICIPATIONS FINANCIERES (LUXEMBOURG) S.A.

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The shareholders are invited to attend the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING which will be held at the Hotel L'Officier, 140A Route d'Arion, L8008 Strassen at 2.00 pm, on 20th May 1996, with the following agenda:

1. To receive the report of the Directors for the year ending 31st December 1995.
2. To receive the report of the Auditor for the year ending 31st December 1995.
3. To approve the annual accounts for the year ending 31st December 1995, to declare a dividend of DEM 0.24 (24 Flemish franc) per share and to fix the date of payment.
4. To grant discharge to the Directors with respect to their duties during the year to 31st December 1995.
5. To grant discharge to the Auditor with respect to their duties during the year to 31st December 1995.
6. To increase the number of Directors to 4 (four).
7. To approve the appointment of Mr Andrew McGivern as a B Director of the Company.
8. To receive a report on the management policies of the Company and to adopt the same insofar as may be appropriate.
9. Any other business.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The T5 Inquiry.

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COMPANIES AND FINANCE: UK

Shell executive to head TransCo Intl

By David Lascelles, Resources Editor

British Gas is paying a £100,000 "golden hello" to attract a top executive from Shell to run one of its key divisions. Mr David Varney, a managing director of Shell UK...

options and pension rights. He will be paid £385,000 a year, which British Gas said was the going rate for top executives in the international oil and gas business.

operations that will make up BGE. Another senior executive, Mr Philip Rogerson, who had widely been expected to run TransCo, will become executive deputy chairman of both TransCo and BGE with special responsibility for the demerger and for regulatory matters.

believed that there was only a short list of potential candidates for Mr Varney's position. Further, the post of finance director at British Gas Energy remains unfilled because the person who was offered the job joined another company at the last minute.

BET chief poised to net £5m in takeover aftermath

By Geoff Dyer

Mr John Clark, chief executive of BET, the business services group which was acquired by rival Rentokil two weeks ago, has made a profit of £3.4m from selling shares as a result of the bid.

Waste companies stall water bids referral

By Jane Martinson

The investigation into the largest takeover in the water industry has been delayed because it could lead to dominance in waste management. Biffa, a subsidiary of Severn Trent, and UK Waste, a joint venture...

later the case has still not been referred because the Office of Fair Trading is investigating the impact of a possible merger on three waste management companies owned by the rivals.

largest company in the sector. Although there have been signs of consolidation in the waste management industry, it is still highly fragmented. Estimates suggest that either combination would create a market share of about 15 per cent nationally.

waste management arm with a £70m acquisition last year, has a large site in the city with the potential to be UK Waste's main competitor. Severn Trent paid £212m for Biffa in 1991. It contributed £102m to operating profits and £85.1m to sales in the last interim period.

from those suggesting a delay would avoid an MMC decision close to the party conference season to the more mundane that the OFT has been so busy with the frenetic takeover activity of late that it has simply not had the time.

Lax controls at St James Beach lead to warning

By Greg Motvor

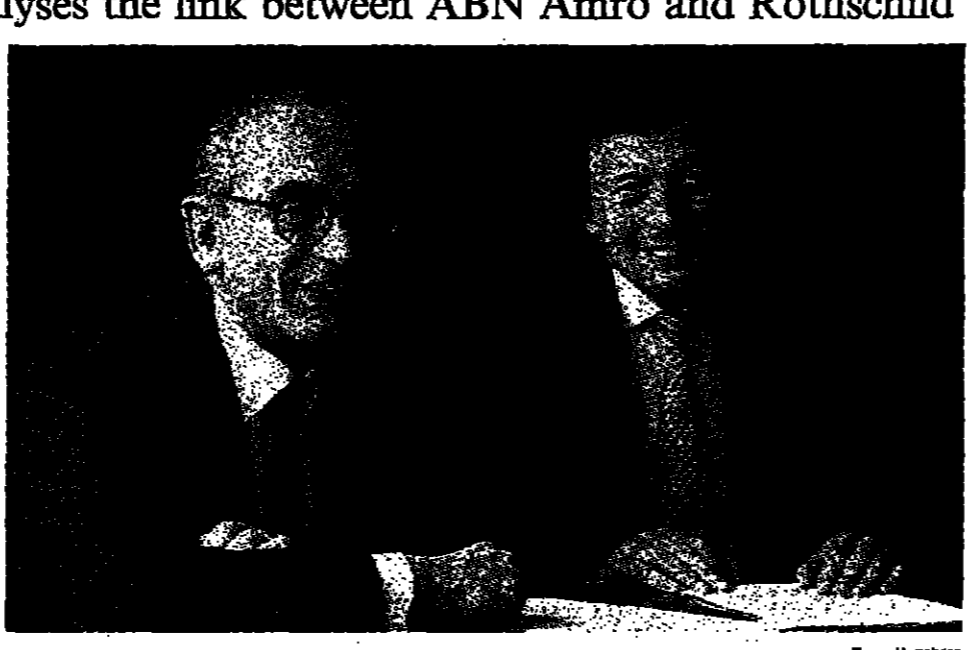
Deficient accounting controls at St James Beach Hotels, the Barbados hotel operator, prompted a warning that annual pre-tax profits could fall below last year's £1.9m. Shares in the company dropped 14p to 100p after it said pre-tax profits would be not less than £1.4m in the year to April. Turnover was ahead of budget.



allowed for. Late last year the managing director, finance director and sales and marketing director all left the company. Mr Horney, who is acting managing director, said new internal controls had been introduced and a full-time internal auditor appointed.

Is this the end of the City shuffle? John Gapper analyses the link between ABN Amro and Rothschild

If it works, the link announced yesterday between ABN Amro and Rothschild could mark the end of Big Bang Mark Two. It will potentially resolve the last big uncertainty in the reshuffle of ownership of merchant banks and stockbroking firms in the City during the past year.



Wilco Jiskoot (left), vice-president of ABN Amro, with Tony Alt, a Rothschild director

it has a strong network of local brokers in Europe and Asia, which is named ABN Amro Hoare Govett after the UK stockbroking firm that it bought in 1993. However, it has lacked a strong corporate finance arm that would be able to use this to its full capacity.

bid them other than goodwill and mutual interest. Rothschild had talked to National Westminster about a similar deal, but NatWest wanted a stake in the merchant bank.

may not provide the quality of research and sales required to distribute big equity deals successfully. An example of this is in eastern Europe, where Rothschild does a lot of privatisation work. It is adviser to the Czech government in the privatisation of Slovak Telecom.

IMI to reduce Timet holding

By Richard Wolfe

IMI, the international engineering group, yesterday said it was raising up to \$100m (£105m) by selling most of its holding in Timet, its newly-merged titanium business. Timet's initial public offering of 10m shares will repay debts, including £12m owed to IMI.

Victorious Tesco pays chairman 18% more

By Richard Wolfe

Sir Ian MacLaurin, the Tesco chairman, retained his position as one of Britain's best-paid retailers with an 18 per cent jump in total remuneration last year to £1.19m. He also netted £144,000 from exercising share options.

Directors gains

Timet is one of the world's leading titanium producers and is jointly owned with Tremont Corporation of the US and a Japanese consortium, Union Titanium Sponge Corporation. Timet's initial public offering of 10m shares will repay debts, including £12m owed to IMI.

Andaman Resources seeks cash

Andaman Resources, one of the two companies formed out of Andaman, the Belfast-based mineral exploration and road markings group, is seeking £125,000 net via a 1-for-1 open offer at 0.5p a share. Last month Andaman split into Transport Systems which took on the group's road markings side while Andaman Resources was formed in take on the exploration activities.

Share sales by Oxford Molecular founders

Several directors and venture capitalists have sold shares in Oxford Molecular, which specialises in software for medicine research, after the expiry of an agreement preventing such sales for two years after flotation. Mr Tony Marchington, chief executive, sold 250,000 shares at 300p each. He keeps shares and options for another 1.5m shares. Mr Marchington said that the main other sellers were venture capital companies, which sold almost half their shareholdings.

NEWS DIGEST

Hall quits metal stockholding

Hall Engineering is to sell its metal stockholding division for £21m cash to Halico 63, a newly formed company controlled by Mr Richard Hall, executive chairman of Hall Engineering, and his family trusts. Mr John Sward, managing director of Hall Engineering, said the sale would increase the proportion of assets deployed in areas with potential for sustainable growth.

Laird cautions on trading

Shares in Laird Group yesterday fell 31p to 456p after the motor components and building products manufacturer sounded a note of caution on current trading. Mr John Gardiner, chairman, told the annual meeting that sales at the start of 1996 had not matched the unusually high levels reported at the start of last year.

Zeneca first quarter sales ahead

Zeneca said yesterday that drugs and agrochemicals sales in the first quarter were well ahead of the same stage of 1995 and of the pharmaceutical company's own forecasts. "This has been something of an exceptional start," Sir Sydney Lipworth, chairman, told the annual meeting.

Talks to promote Hilton brand

Ladbroke, the leisure group which owns Hilton International, and Hilton Hotels of the US hope to agree a closer co-operation over the next few months to promote the Hilton brand worldwide and cut cost duplication. The talks cover possible collaboration in areas such as marketing, reservations, logos, and loyalty programmes, without ruling out structural measures including a full-blown merger of the two groups' hotel activities.

Norwich to deter speculators

Norwich Union, the composite insurer, yesterday took powers to deter speculators in search of a bonus from its impending conversion into a public limited company. Paying bonuses to people who hold policies with mutual life companies has gained prominence as the financial services sector goes through a process of rationalisation. The move was approved at the insurer's annual meeting, and will enable Norwich to withdraw membership rights from the life assurance policies it sells.

Oxford GlycoSciences

Oxford GlycoSciences, the drug discovery group, has raised £13m in a private financing round. Mr G Kirk Raab, chairman, said: "We expect that we will be ready for a stock market flotation during 1997." The company, which claims to be the first commercial venture in Oxford University's history, was formed in 1988 with technology based on research done at the university's microbiology institute.

Direct Line attracts £80m

Direct Line, the telephone-based insurer owned by the Royal Bank of Scotland, is now supporting about one-quarter of its mortgage book through retail deposits. The insurer said that since it started selling mortgages in the second half of 1994 it had lent £230m. It had attracted £68m in deposits since launching its telephone savings account at the end of January. It would not say what its preferred balance of retail and wholesale funding for its mortgage business would be.

Norish sells Irish cold store side

Norish, the Irish food distribution and refrigeration group, is completing its withdrawal from the Irish cold storage market with the disposal of Norish (Ireland) and its 60 per cent stake in Norish (Kilkenny). The group also announced increased pre-tax losses of £65.8m (£77m) against £760,000 for 1995 after exceptional charges of £55.5m (£23.5m) relating to store write-downs, disposals and rationalisation costs. The proceeds, about £15.7m after repayment of inter-company loans, will be used to reduce borrowings.

LFT option on gold project

London Fiduciary Trust, the Aim-listed gold miner with operations in the Philippines, has taken an option to pay \$10m (£5.6m) for the Masbate gold project on Masbate Island, and an option to pay not more than \$2m for the Banabaw gold project, Mindanao Island. Mr Fred Mason, new head of operations, said the acquisitions and LFT's existing Masara mine had the potential to lift production to 200,000 ounces by the end of 1997.

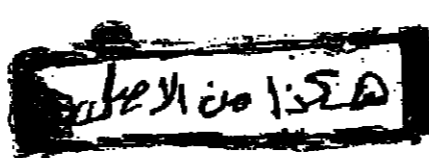
In Brief

■ ELYS (WIMBLEDON): Panther Securities had at May 8 received acceptances for its hostile offer representing 53.76 per cent of the share capital. Holders of 187,534 Elys shares voted in favour of the offer, representing 32.35 per cent of the capital not held by Panther. ■ FIBRENEXT GROUP, a data networking company, is planning to float this summer. Singer & Friedlander has been appointed sponsor to the issue, which will provide funds for expansion of the company's national data network.

Advertisement for Acer Incorporated, U.S. \$45,000,000, 4 per cent, Bonds Due 2001.

Advertisement for GCE, Gannett City Station N.Y., detailing advertising rates and contact information.

Table with financial data including turnover, pre-tax profit, EPS, and dividends for various companies like BT, British Gas, and others.



COMMODITIES AND AGRICULTURE

WEEK IN THE MARKETS

Copper tightness continues

London Metal Exchange copper prices fell back yesterday afternoon in response to news of a bigger-than-expected rise in exchange warehouse stocks...

The normal situation where cash prices are at a discount reflecting costs of holding physical metal - storage, insurance and lost interest...

The depth of the LME authorities' concern about the tightening supply squeeze was underlined in mid-week when Mr David King, the chief executive...

Mr King would not be drawn on the reasons for the action beyond denying accusations that the exchange had "bared the shorts"...

Activity was relatively slow yesterday, with operators adopting a cautious attitude ahead of today's expected vote by workers at Peru's CODECO copper mine...

Bloomsbury Minerals Economics said in its latest market review this week that the recent strength of nearby copper prices was not wholly artificial...

Bloomsbury pointed to problems on Africa's Tazara railway, financial difficulties at a Russian smelter and riots at copper producing units in Iran...

But it said the most important development had been the bringing forward of the maintenance and repair shutdown of the RTZ's Garfield smelter at Bingham Canyon in Utah...

The review said the copper price fall of January and February had been caused by aggressive short selling by investment funds and speculators...

Other LME markets were generally quiet, as were soft commodity futures at the London Commodity Exchange.

BASE METALS

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

Table with columns for metal type (Copper, Aluminium, Lead, Zinc, Tin), price, change, and other details.

Table for LME Warehouse Stocks (Aluminium, Copper, Lead, Zinc, Tin) showing prices and changes.

Table for LME Closing 1500 (Aluminium, Copper, Lead, Zinc, Tin) showing prices and changes.

Table for LME Closing 1500 (Aluminium, Copper, Lead, Zinc, Tin) showing prices and changes.

Table for LME Closing 1500 (Aluminium, Copper, Lead, Zinc, Tin) showing prices and changes.

Precious Metals continued

Table for Precious Metals (Gold, Silver, Platinum, Palladium) showing prices and changes.

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GRAINS AND OIL SEEDS

Table for Grains and Oil Seeds (Wheat, Soybeans, Corn, etc.) showing prices and changes.

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SOFTS

Table for Softs (Cocoa, Coffee, Sugar) showing prices and changes.

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MEAT AND LIVESTOCK

Table for Meat and Livestock (Cattle, Pigs, etc.) showing prices and changes.

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WEEKLY PRICE CHANGES

Table showing weekly price changes for various commodities like Gold, Silver, Copper, etc.

PRECIOUS METALS

Table showing precious metals prices (Gold, Silver, Platinum, Palladium) and changes.

ENERGY

Table showing energy prices (Crude Oil, Heating Oil, etc.) and changes.

UNLEADED GASOLINE

Table showing unleaded gasoline prices and changes.

FUTURES DATA

Table showing futures data for various commodities.

INDICES

Table showing various market indices and their values.

US TREASURY BOND FUTURES

Table showing US Treasury Bond Futures prices and changes.

WORLD BOND PRICES

Table showing world bond prices for various countries.

US INTEREST RATES

Table showing US interest rates for different terms.

BOND FUTURES AND OPTIONS

Table showing bond futures and options prices.

EURO BOND FUTURES

Table showing Euro bond futures prices.

FT ACTUARIES FIXED INTEREST INDICES

Table showing FT Actuaries Fixed Interest Indices.

FT FIXED INTEREST INDICES

Table showing FT Fixed Interest Indices.

GILT EDGED ACTIVITY INDICES

Table showing Gilt Edged Activity Indices.

MARKET REPORT

By Lisa Bransten in New York and Conner Middelmann in London. Signs that inflationary pressures remain subdued despite the recent strength of the US economy...

Germany

Germany's government bond markets took their cues from the US Treasury market and ended near their day's highs.

France

France's government bond futures (MATIF) FF500.000 saw prices rise on Thursday.

Italy

Italy's government bond futures (BTP) FF100.000 saw prices rise on Thursday.

Spain

Spain's government bond futures (MERT) saw prices rise on Thursday.

UK

UK's government bond futures (GILT) saw prices rise on Thursday.

Japan

Japan's government bond futures (JGB) saw prices rise on Thursday.

MARGINED CURRENCY DEALING advertisement for Laurion, featuring flexible managed accounts and limited liability.

Table showing benchmark government bonds for various countries (Australia, Austria, Belgium, etc.).

Table showing UK Gilts prices for various maturities.

Table showing other fixed interest rates and yields.

CURRENCIES AND MONEY

MARKETS REPORT

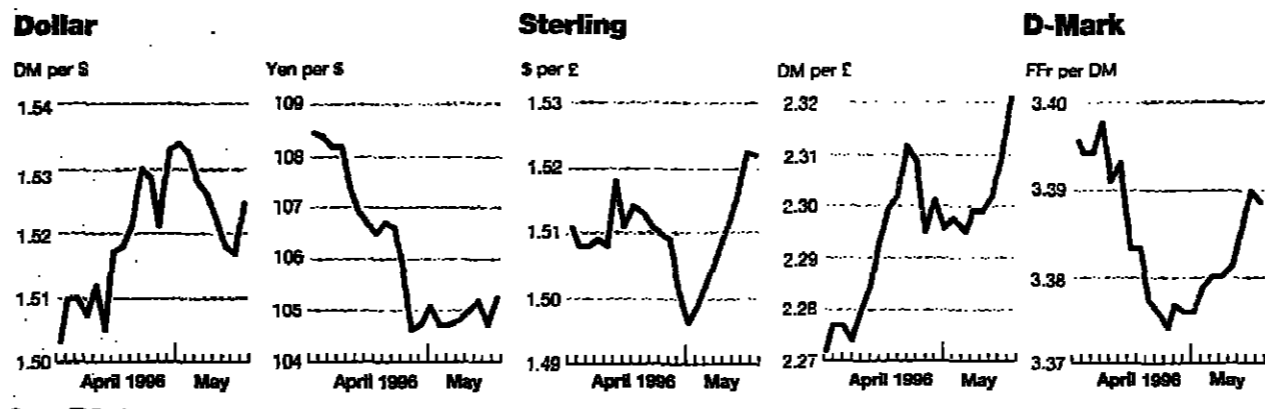
Dollar recovers

By Graham Bowley

The dollar rebounded strongly on the foreign exchanges yesterday, supported by weak US inflation figures and comments by Mr Robert Rubin, the US Treasury secretary. Mr Rubin said that a strong dollar was in the interest of the US and that it should not be used as a tool to reduce the US trade deficit. The dollar's recovery sent the D-Mark into retreat and infused new life into some of the higher yielding European currencies. The Italian lira, which had come under heavy selling pressure earlier in the week, made particularly strong gains. The pound had another good day, completing a week of strong performance amid calmer political events following the previous week's UK local elections. The South African rand strengthened against the dol-

lar, reversing some of its sharp losses earlier in the week following withdrawal of Mr F W de Klerk's National Party from the government coalition. The dollar closed in London at Y105.35, from Y104.7490 at the previous close. Against the D-Mark, it finished at DM1.5249, from DM1.5168. Sterling finished at DM2.3217, from DM2.3103. Against the dollar, it closed at \$1.5226, from \$1.5232. The rand

about the German economy and growing speculation that European monetary union might be delayed. But the US producer price figures - which showed a subdued 0.4 per cent rise last month - triggered a sharp rally in US Treasury bonds, which combined with Mr Rubin's comments to drag the dollar higher. Its strongest gains came against the D-Mark, with the yen-dollar rate more stable. Mr Keith Edmunds, chief analyst at IBI International in



London, said: "The dollar is now looking perkier than it has done for most of this week." Mr Kirit Shah, chief market strategist at Sanwa International in London, said the dollar's rebound was also helped by considerable market relief that the currency had not been taken through the key DM1.50 level after crossing DM1.53 during its decline on Thursday. But Mr Steve Barrow, currency analyst at Chemical Bank in London, said the dollar's rise yesterday may have

been an overreaction, with its movements exaggerated by thin market conditions. The dollar's recovery brought the D-Mark's weak rally to an abrupt end, it also appeared to reverse some of the growing relief which had been gained all week, that the introduction of the proposed European single currency might not take place on time. This speculation, a shift from the Euro-enthusiasm of earlier months, lent the D-Mark more

support but depressed the more peripheral European currencies such as the lira and the peseta. Ms Ivana Bottini, market strategist at Indosuez in Milan, said the lira was also hit on Thursday by an announcement by S&P, the credit rating agency, that it would not award Italy a higher credit rating because the country still had significant structural problems. But the lira and other European currencies recovered yesterday as the D-Mark fell against the dollar.

Ms Ivana Bottini, market strategist at Indosuez in Milan, said the lira was also hit on Thursday by an announcement by S&P, the credit rating agency, that it would not award Italy a higher credit rating because the country still had significant structural problems. But the lira and other European currencies recovered yesterday as the D-Mark fell against the dollar.

POUND SPOT FORWARD AGAINST THE POUND

Table with columns: May 10, Closing mid-point, Change on day, Bid/offer spread, Day's mid high low, One month Rate %PA, Three months Rate %PA, One year Rate %PA, Bank of England Index.

DOLLAR SPOT FORWARD AGAINST THE DOLLAR

Table with columns: May 10, Closing mid-point, Change on day, Bid/offer spread, Day's mid high low, One month Rate %PA, Three months Rate %PA, One year Rate %PA, J.P. Morgan Index.

CROSS RATES AND DERIVATIVES

EXCHANGE CROSS RATES

Table showing exchange rates for various currencies including Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, and Ecu.

EMU EUROPEAN CURRENCY UNIT RATES

Table showing EMU European Currency Unit rates for various countries including Spain, Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Portugal, Ireland, France, and Denmark.

UK INTEREST RATES

Table showing UK interest rates for various terms including 1 month, 3 months, 6 months, 1 year, and 2 years.

BASE LENDING RATES

Table showing base lending rates for various banks including Adam & Company, Allied Trust Bank, Bank of America, etc.

UK MONEY RATES

Table showing UK money rates for various terms including 1 month, 3 months, 6 months, 1 year, and 2 years.

PHILADELPHIA SE 6S OPTIONS

Table showing Philadelphia SE 6S options for various terms including 1 month, 3 months, 6 months, 1 year, and 2 years.

MARGINED FOREIGN EXCHANGE TRADING advertisement by Union Limited.

FAST 64 KBIT SATELLITE TECHNOLOGY advertisement for FOREX, FUTURES, OPTIONS, EQUITIES, NEWS.

SHARE MONITORING advertisement for financial news, indices, and custom service.

SECURITIES AND FUTURES LIMITED advertisement for futures and options trading.

OFFSHORE COMPANIES advertisement for offshore investment services.

ISTITUTO PER LA RICOSTRUZIONE INDUSTRIALE (IRI) S.p.A. advertisement regarding IRI-STET 1992-1996 Warrants.

KNIGHT-RIDDER'S FUTURES MARKET DATAKIT FROM \$570 advertisement.

Petroleum Argus Daily Oil Price Reports advertisement.

IFIT GUIDE TO WORLD CURRENCIES advertisement.

WANT TO KNOW A SECRET? advertisement for a seminar on market secrets.

MULTIPACE advertisement for futures and options trading.

SHARE MONITORING advertisement for financial news and indices.

SPREAD BETTING ON OVER EIGHTY MARKETS advertisement for City Index.

Market-Eye advertisement for financial data and analysis.

SHARE MONITORING advertisement for financial news and indices.

WORLD INTEREST RATES

Table showing world interest rates for various countries including Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, and Ecu.

EURO CURRENCY INTEREST RATES

Table showing Euro currency interest rates for various countries including Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, and Ecu.

THREE MONTH PIBOR FUTURES (MATIF) Paris Interbank offered rate (FF 5m)

Table showing three month PIBOR futures rates for various terms including Jun, Sep, Dec.

THREE MONTH EUROBANK FUTURES (LFFE) DM 1m points of 100%

Table showing three month Eurobank futures rates for various terms including Jun, Sep, Dec.

THREE MONTH EUROFUTURES (LFFE) L1000m points of 100%

Table showing three month Eurofutures rates for various terms including Jun, Sep, Dec.

THREE MONTH EURO SWISS FUTURES (LFFE) SF 1m points of 100%

Table showing three month Euro Swiss futures rates for various terms including Jun, Sep, Dec.

THREE MONTH EURO YEN FUTURES (LFFE) Y100m points of 100%

Table showing three month Euro Yen futures rates for various terms including Jun, Sep, Dec.

THREE MONTH EURO DOLLAR FUTURES (LFFE) ECU 1m points of 100%

Table showing three month Euro Dollar futures rates for various terms including Jun, Sep, Dec.

THREE MONTH EURO DOLLAR FUTURES (LFFE) ECU 1m points of 100%

Table showing three month Euro Dollar futures rates for various terms including Jun, Sep, Dec.

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Handwritten note: 50/100

Weekend FT

A nation is stirred by one man's search for his son

The missing people of Turkey have become a national issue, thanks to the efforts of a distraught parent's solo campaign. **John Barham reports**

One evening four years ago, Abdülhamit Özbilici did not come home. After waiting up all night for him, his distraught parents began combing their neighbourhood but could not find him. Then they began searching Istanbul's hospitals, police stations, morgues and asylums. Still they did not find him.

They never heard from Abdülhamit again. Unlike an increasing number of disappearances in Turkey, security police are not suspected of involvement: Abdülhamit, though 22, has a mental age of 10.

His father Ismet has been searching for his son for four years and has used up nearly all his money. "Nobody wanted to know, I went to the newspapers and television but they said it was not newsworthy. I went to the president and the prime minister. I saw the interior minister and he said there was nothing he could do," Özbilici recalls.

He quickly discovered that Abdülhamit's disappearance was not unique. There are no statistics on missing people, but between 3,000 and 5,000 are estimated to disappear in Turkey every year, many of them children. Few are ever seen again. The true figure, however, is probably much higher.

Although disappearances are common in other countries, Özbilici was amazed that Turkey has no government body, police department or missing persons bureau dealing actively with the problem.

"People would just sit at home and cry and do nothing,"

he says, "or they would spend all their money looking for their loved one until they could do no more." However, Özbilici says: "I refused to accept my son's disappearance." His case is all the more poignant because a second son, also severely handicapped, has since died.

Instead, he has mounted almost single-handedly a successful campaign that has made his disappearance a national issue. Özbilici started an organisation, the Association

of the Relatives of the Missing. "People thought I was crazy," he says in the association's headquarters, a dingy apartment with walls covered in press clippings and photos of missing people.

Özbilici, a dishevelled man who cannot stop talking, says the disappeared fall into four broad categories. Some are severely injured or killed in road accidents and cannot be traced because they were not carrying identity documents. Others - like Abdülhamit - are mentally handicapped and get lost.

Almost half are runaways,

teenagers dreaming of streets paved with gold in Istanbul or escaping unhappy home lives. Many drift into crime or prostitution. A large number of the missing are kidnapped. Turkey's Human Rights Association says about 20 political suspects "disappear" every month after being held by police or security forces.

Özbilici also hears of professional kidnapers taking small children for sale to illegal adoption rings or pressing them into work in back street workshops. Child labour is common in Turkey. About 1m children aged between six and 14 work, usually with their parents' consent, either to learn a trade as apprentices or as workers or street vendors simply to help put bread on the table.

But Özbilici admits he does not really know what happens to missing infants. "We know little of these cases," he says. "We just imagine what could happen to them. When we locate someone, we do not ask the family what they were doing. We do not have time to find out what happened to them. Families do not want publicity. Our objective is not to lose any more children."

Distressingly, he adds: "It is very hard to find children after they have been abducted." Children's features change as they grow up. Few can fend for themselves or find their way home. Thousands vanish without trace every year. Hatice Serper, 7, was taken from the front garden of her house while playing a year ago. Little Tarkan Ok was abducted by a man while playing in a park.

Young girls often leave home dreaming of becoming film stars or pop singers, or are seduced by promises of marriage. Few fulfil their ambition. Many are raped and sold into prostitution by their supposed fiancés.

Pimps, known in Turkish as *pezevenk*, recruit women as prostitutes, put them to work and even trade them in a shadowy white slave market. *Pezevenk* are known to "sell" women to brothels, where their identity documents are held. The women are often made to sign a blank promissory note, shackling them to the brothel by debt. As a rule, women can leave only after "refunding" the madam.

Turkey's brothels are privately owned but supervised by the state. A report in 1991 by Anti Slavery International, a London-based group, said:

"At its worst the scheme acts as a state sanctioned system of forced prostitution." Hakan Gürtop, a crime reporter for national television, believes that about one-fifth of women working in brothels are there against their will.

The brothels are grim, prison-like places surrounded by high walls. Invariably there is a single entry, an iron gate guarded round the clock by municipal security men who check the identities of those who enter and leave.

Özbilici and helpers from his association have mounted "rescues" of prostitutes. Recently he helped free Kesban Gündoğan, a 22-year-old woman working as a prostitute in a small town nightclub. In February he found Bütül Çokbaldiran, a mentally handicapped girl now aged 17, in the city of Konya 13 months after she went missing. Her kidnappers kept her as a prostitute servicing truck drivers. Releasing women from licensed brothels is clearly more difficult.

In spite of Özbilici's efforts, the government has done little to improve its procedures for tracing missing persons.

He first tried to publicise the plight of the disappeared in a book with pictures and information on as many people as he could find. The book attracted scant attention. Then he found sponsors to pay for calendars with pictures of missing people for shopkeepers to hang in their stores, but this also failed to have much effect.

"One day," he says, "when I was really fed up I saw a bus go by covered in advertising for sausages. So I thought why shouldn't I put pictures of the missing on the bus? I didn't have any money, so I went to the town hall. After 32 meetings, they accepted." The first bus covered with pictures of 250 missing people took to the streets of Istanbul at the end of last year.

Suddenly, the drama of the disappeared became a national issue. The bus was featured in television news programmes and in newspapers. An elec-

Continued on Page II

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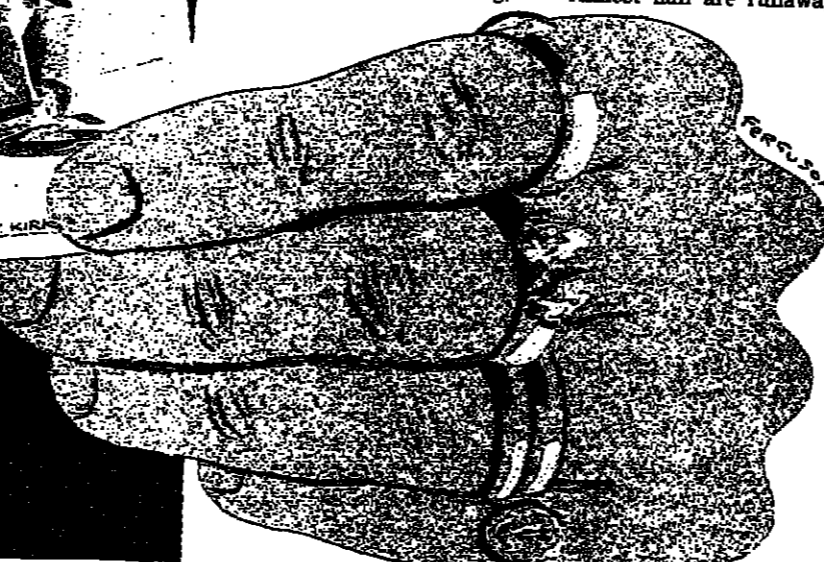


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Joe Rogaly

That continental embrace

How will Britain survive its battle with the EU? History provides the answer



There may always be an England, but the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is for the chop. Yes, into little pieces. Perhaps there will be life for its constituent parts within a mini-federation, maybe as a republic, certainly as an entity within greater Europe. But UK of GB and NI? Forget it.

We cannot be sure when the end of the artificial Anglo-Celtic nation-state will come. As an indication, fast-forward for a moment to the year 2050. Can you believe that Ulster will still be part of the kingdom? That Scotland will be governed from London? That the ruling authority will be an hereditary monarchy? That, if a European Union then exists, the islands that lie off its north-western shore will stand outside, alone and aloof?

patting such an event could be wishful thinking. This, after all, is the week in which the British government celebrated Europe Day by loudly not flying the EU flag.

Again, yet another contra-EU opinion poll appeared on Thursday. It indicated an overwhelming majority opposed to sterling's absorption into a single currency. The picture builds itself up. A gleeful shudder, as at a naughty word said in a classroom, ran down some British spines when Helmut Kohl was forced-fed British beef in Downing Street last week. There will be a giggle, of similar origins, when Jacques Chirac arrives in the next few days.

There is no escaping the message. The mood is decidedly sceptical. We have to admit the possibility that Britain will rip away the Velcro that binds it to the union across the sea. Perhaps this is the beginning of the end.

did find a role after it lost the empire. It became part of the American shadow empire. Now it is being nudged out of that and into the EU. The present wave of antipathy to all things European seems to point Britain towards the deep blue sea. History propels it towards Brussels, Frankfurt, Bonn, Berlin.

Oh dear, I seem to have mentioned three German destinations. This is surely a childish attempt to provoke English readers. Before you know it, I will be saying positive things about the French. Well, it so happens that the "English" are really German, with a strong dash of Normandy in the ethnic and cultural mix. I did not make this up. I read it in a book.

This week by Stephen Haseler, professor of government at London Guildhall University. The German infusions came from Jutland, the Angles in Denmark, and Lower Saxony. The Vikings were Germanic. Professor Haseler over-stretches his English-German argument when he throws in what he calls the "Frenchieffed Normans" and notes that "like the Germans", they were "also

for even the most potted recapitulation of history. Challenges to the notion of "Englishness" are not new. Professor Haseler has, however, brought previous thoughts together in a short and stimulating volume.

He tells us that the idea of "England", was nurtured by their instinctive outlook on land, class and race. The establishment that steered by

these compasses remained sceptical about reason, first principles, intellectuals. It was anti-Catholic and anti-French.

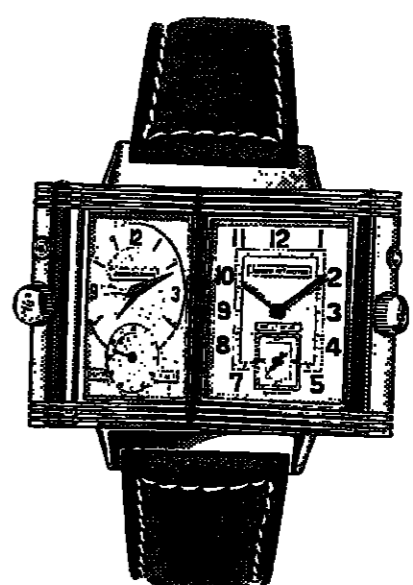
You could say, as in some moods I would, that the edifice that supports the UK on such an English foundation is crumbling. The monarchy is not in the best of shape. Labour would defenestrate hereditary peers and devolve authority to Scotland. The influence of the established Church is dwindling. Professor Haseler would go further, citing the global economy, the Internet, satellite TV (owned by outsiders), and the purchase of British assets by international companies as several among many reasons why sovereignty is ebbing away from nation-states.

So far, so familiar. More piquant is the author's dismissal of the proposition that the EU is the creature of its members, that it is a Europe of nation-states. He argues that under the Maastricht treaty the union really is an embryonic federal superstate. He places it somewhere on an historical time line equivalent to the position of the nascent

United States two centuries ago. Pro-Europeans do say this kind of thing but less often than sceptics. It makes us nervous.

Not our professor. He suggests that in the next century the British, outside the UK but within Europe, will not become a tragic people robbed of their freedom. They will, rather, be fortunate enough, "in an increasingly competitive and unstable world... to be part of a seriously going concern".

*The English Tribe, Macmillan, London, pb £14.99.



Boodle & Dunthorne and Jaeger-le Coultre are pleased to announce the premiere viewing of the latest collection of



Reverso and jewelled timepieces featuring the smallest mechanical watch movement ever manufactured. Thursday 23rd May to Saturday 8th June 10.00am to 6.00pm at

BOODLE & DUNTHORNE Jewellers 128-130 Regent Street, London 0171 437 5050

PERSPECTIVES



Norman Parker: 'The system makes you bitter and twisted. It affects the way you look. In Parkhurst it was like Dante's 'Inferno''

Tony Anderson

Lunch with the FT / Lucy Kellaway

A date with a murderer

The convicted murderer and the convicted murderer's public relations man were sitting by the window in Rasa Syang, a Malaysian restaurant in Soho, London. They looked like a couple of local film people with their leather jackets, mineral water and mobile phones. I barely glanced at them, and sat at another table to wait for Norman Parker.

I was looking for a man in his 50s who had spent more than half his life in jail and had just published a second book about his grisly prison experiences.

According to his press release he had killed twice: at the age of 19 he shot his girlfriend - a violent type who slept with a gun under her pillow and who had attempted to kill him first. He served four years in prison for that, but shortly after his release killed again, and was back inside for the next 24 years.

I was having my doubts about this lunch. Is it right that murderers should become celebrities with fawning PRs and be courted by journalists hungry for stories of crime and punishment? Was I really interested in his views on prison reform, or was I just wanting to meet someone who had done the unthinkable?

I sat there for some time searching both my conscience and the restaurant in vain. Eventually I looked again at the men in the window. On closer inspection I saw that the older of the two did not look like a film producer at all. His face was deeply lined and he seemed intense. I approached. The PR man did the introductions, and left us to it.

"Are you a regular here?" I found myself asking.

Ignoring the inanity of the question he explained that Asian food suited him: in prison he had put himself on a restricted diet after contracting psoriatic arthritis. "I had been fitter than an Olympic athlete. Literally. But I woke up one

day and my fingers were fat like chipolata sausages."

The voice was broad cockney and the manner articulate, obsessive. He told me how he had cured himself by getting a job in the prison kitchen so that he could feed himself exclusively on sweets, bananas, carrots and soya stew.

We studied our menus in silence. I ordered noodles, he ordered fish and rice. I started to explain about the Lunch with the FT series. He looked blank and replied with a story about how successful the launch of his book had been at the Groucho Club in Soho. "Unfortunately it's a little bit of a cliché writing a book - no thanks to McVicar, Reggie Kray, Eddie Richardson. But their books have been ghost written - I write all my books. Without being arrogant, I'd like to say I've got some literary pretensions." Did he mean potential, I wondered.

Taking courage, I asked if murderers should be able to become rich and famous on the basis of what they have done. "Yeah, yeah," he interrupted. "For my first book I stood for that. I was Norman the Murderer who happened to have written a book. But it sold 20,000 in hardback. OK, now I've got my second book published. It's a full-length book. By all means criticise my book. But I feel I've served my time: I did 24 years for killing a criminal with his own gun after he attacked me."

Evidently I had touched a raw nerve. I tried to interrupt the flow, but without success. "Every man and his dog has an opinion about prisons but it's an extremely unfounded opinion. So if nothing else I am informing the debate. But you would have thought I was committing a series of crimes the way some people have reacted."

I shifted the topic to the "variety of successful business ventures" which, according to his press release, he has established since being released on parole two years

ago. "I realised it was no use going up to a corporation and saying, 'I'm Norman Parker, I'm 50 years of age. I've got an upper second class honours degree but unfortunately I've just spent the last 24 years in prison for murder.'"

So instead he has been "spotting ideas looking for a market and taking them to my business friends". Was Gerald Ransom, the businessman imprisoned for his role in the Guinness saga) one of those friends, I asked, but he did not want to talk about it.

"He's a very private man. He's Jewish. I'm Jewish. We knew each other in prison. He enjoys my writing. I'm friendly with him, but I don't want to make capital out of that."

We started to talk more generally about the shock of emerging from prison after so long inside. "Prison encloses you, feeds you, thinks for you. But out here there is absolutely no structure," Parker reckons that he has only been able to cope with the outside world because of his mum. Now aged 84, she spent nearly three decades visiting her son in jails and the two live together in Wimbledon.

"After I came out I met a young lady of 23 with a very severe drug problem. We lived together for a while. But last year she died on a train."

"It was quite a heavy blow. But

now I am back with me mum and totally concentrating on me career."

It was difficult to know how to react to all this. On one hand he was telling me his deepest secrets, but was doing so in such a detached way he could have been talking about someone else.

"Prison is the loneliest place in the world," he went on. "If you're not gay, and I'm not, you don't have no emotional relationships whatsoever. Apart from when my mum came I didn't touch anyone. In some ways I felt strong, but I was aware I was a very long way from the rest of the human race." Watching him pick at his plate of rice and prawns I thought he was still a long way off.

I asked what he thought of Michael Howard's prison initiative. "It's a waste of taxpayers' money," he said. "The money could be better spent in more policing and preventing crime. Politically I used to be very much of the right but - it might be to do with taking a very Marxist oriented Open University course - I ended up on the left. So privatisation doesn't sit easy with me, except in the case of prisons."

He described a trip he took soon after his release round one of the first privatised prisons, and from the glowing way he talked about the organisation, its structure and culture he could have been a management consultant.

How much of a difference would it have been made to him had he done his time there? "I wouldn't have had so much to hate," he said. "The system makes you bitter and twisted. It affects the way you look. In Parkhurst it was like Dante's 'Inferno'. There were people who were completely insane, they were very dangerous. Literally, it was every man for himself. So I thought: if only the public knew about this. That was one of the reasons I wrote *Parkhurst Towers*."

For all his venom about prisons and prison officers, he thinks that the system saved him. "I was quite

a violent person back in 1970. Quite disturbed, and very, very self-destructive. I recognised that early on in prison I tried to think good and do good."

Was there still violence in him, I asked, but what I really meant was: might he kill again?

"If you've got an evil streak you have to contain it and push it down inside you. Whatever I had was still there but it's absolutely totally under control."

At this point I became aware that other people in the restaurant were listening in, but he took no notice. Instead he was intent on telling me how much the world had deteriorated during his time behind bars.

"In prison there is a lot of camaraderie, but out here there is no morality, especially in the criminal walks of life."

I remarked that criminals were not known for their enhanced moral sense. He ignored the sarcasm and ploughed on: "When someone comes out of prison, ex-cons would give them a few quid, or put them into a particular criminal venture. But now everyone has to look after themselves. The distinction between good and bad has become blurred, y'know."

I studied him for traces of irony, but found none.

"Every second unemployed person is a burglar. When you go out in a public place you are taking your life in your hands."

Come on, I say, it is not that bad...

"You might miss it, but when I see someone I know is a criminal type person. You become a very good judge of character in prison because your life depends on it."

We stood up to leave, and I was taken aback to see that this man who boasts in his books that he was feared by both "cons" (convicts) and "screws" (prison officers) alike is barely taller than me. Where are you off to, I asked. To Soho Square, he said, to discuss a project with a film production company.

The Amazon highway to destruction

Angus Foster considers the human and environmental cost of building a road

It was launched to symbolise a modernising Brazil, a road to open up the Amazon and carry "men without land" to the "land without men".

Twenty-five years later, the Transamazônica highway is still unfinished and its red dirt surface, which threads through thousands of miles of rainforest and savannah, is often impassable when it rains.

The grand designs of its military planners are long forgotten. But where the highway went and colonists followed, there has been a transformation, often at huge environmental cost. For the several hundred thousand people living alongside the highway, it is home. For those still arriving, it is the route to cheap land and, perhaps, a new life.

"The whole idea was a mistake," according to Paulo Medeiros, who came with his family in the 1970s to farm and waited four years for the highway to reach his property. "But it is too late now, you can't turn the clock back. The damage has been done."

The Transamazônica was first proposed in 1970 after a serious drought hit Brazil's poor north-east. The military government decided that cheap land in the Amazon could silence calls for land reform in other parts of the country.

Construction started almost immediately, after few if any environmental studies. Inca, the government's land agency, was told to start settling colonists either side of the highway and by other new roads in the region. In total, the agency had 3.2m sq km of land on its books, about 10 times the size of the UK.

For the inhabitants of Altamira, then a sleepy village which lay on the Transamazônica's path, there was excitement. For Benigno Marques, who was born in the village and was then in his 20s, the highway's arrival was something from another world. "They talked about opening up a continent and founding new cities. For us, it meant the arrival of TV too," he says.

The Transamazônica did reach Altamira and several model agricultural villages were built at 10km intervals into the forest. But a change of president, and the realisation that small farmers would desert their land without proper infrastructure such as schools and hospitals, left the project quickly without government support.

From 1972, development was left to the private sector. Big farmers did well, converting forest to cattle pasture using government incentives. Small farmers and newcomers were forced to cut ever deeper into the Amazon.

Altamira is today showing signs of gentrification, although it retains the aura of a frontier town. The gun repairs are being pushed to the outskirts by hardware and clothes shops serving farmers bringing their produce to market. The population has grown from 3,000 in 1970 to 120,000. A severe energy shortage leaves only half the town with electricity at any time.

Religion has arrived in force and the most of Brazil's evangelical Protestant movements have built churches to appeal to the desperate and needy among the new arrivals.

Darby, a mysterious satanic sect is blamed for the murder and emasculation of five young boys since 1988. Three more boys were kidnapped and castrated, but survived.

West along the highway towards Medicilandia, named after the unpleasant president Médici who launched the Transamazônica, there are few remaining signs that the area was once densely forested.

The only clue, amid the rolling pastures, are occasional burnt out tree trunks, some more than 100ft tall, which sit nakedly on the horizon.

These are remnants of a decree to save rare species such as chestnut and ipé. But when the forest was cleared by fire, the trees were saved but their branches burned in the intense heat and most have since died.

Forest clearance continues, but has extended many miles inland from the highway. For the Amazon as a whole, only about 10 per cent of forest cover has been removed. But in regions such as Altamira, the process is most advanced. Equally disturbing, it has also taken hold in theoretically protected areas like indigenous indian reserves.

One of the ironies of the Transamazônica's "land without men" catch-phrase was that the land did, of course, have indigenous owners who were never reimbursed. These people, who near Altamira include the Arara and Bacajá tribes, later won recognition of their - much diminished - land holdings. But when rarer, more lucrative species were exhausted elsewhere, loggers started prospecting indian reserves.

Padre Diego Pelizzari, a priest who works with indigenous tribes, says the big wood companies cut

The police can throw out one wood firm, but how do you take out 250 families?

tracks of up to 100km into the indians' forest reserves to extract rare species like mahogany, much of which is exported to the UK. Using this track, land speculators map out plots which are sold to farmers using false titles. By the time the indians realise the problem, part of their territory has been invaded.

"The police can throw out one wood company, but how do you take out 250 families," he asks.

Panlo, who did not give his surname, is one of the people who follow behind the families. He "cleans" forests, although he prefers to describe his work using the Portuguese verb *derrubar*, to knock over or destroy. A Negro in his 30s with enormous hands, he speaks proudly of the different cutting techniques for each tree and ways to stop fire spreading to other people's plots.

I asked him if he would feel guilty about clearing Indian land. "I have a wife and two children and I only know this work. If someone pays me, I'll 'knock over' anybody's land," he said.

I did, finally, manage to find some uncleared forest near Altamira. About a two-hour walk from the town, past farms and flat pasture, the dirt track ran out and entered a belt of forest along the Xingu river. It was a glimpse of how much of the region must once have appeared, a high forest canopy of bird song and mass of ground vegetation shielding exotic insects and a hundred types of butterflies.

The image soon faded. On one side of the belt lay a recently burnt strip of land, perhaps 100 acres in size. Only one high palm tree had survived the fire. Its success seemed inappropriate amid the remaining branchless trunks, their lifelessness recalling war photographs of Vietnamese woodland after napalm attacks.

A reflection of Rome's glory

Maurice Samuelson enjoys a visit to a Canadian library modelled on the Colosseum

However dramatic the changes in the streets of Vancouver, they will always pale against the mountains which clasp Canada's third biggest city.

They are striking nonetheless, judging by the city's most significant new building. Blatantly modelled on the Colosseum of Rome in its shape and scale, Vancouver's new public library is a tribute to its architect's *chutzpah* and puckish sense of humour.

Moshe Safdie, the Canadian-Israeli designer, showed both these qualities when he submitted the plan for the library. To the fury of local architects, who also coveted the job, Safdie's plan was chosen.

It is one of a spate of new buildings in a maritime city, in which economic growth is surging thanks to immigration and trade with the Pacific Rim countries of Asia. It is also part of the world-wide crop of new libraries designed as powerhouses of information technology.

In the US alone new libraries are going up in 10 cities, including Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Denver and San Antonio.

Vancouver's nine-storey colossus (the library occupies the first seven floors) already draws 8,000 readers a day, twice as many as its predecessors built in 1967. Other architects were aghast when it opened and art college students scornfully paraded in Roman togas at the inauguration. But the design captivated the populace who in 1990 had voted to raise C\$30m towards its construction.

Madge Aalto, the library's director, compares its user friendliness with the "gridlock" in its predecessor, where "readers had to sit in the stair wells and the single lift moved with the speed of molasses".

Larry Beasley, Vancouver's central area planning director, also acknowledges its popularity while cautioning that "it's not the greatest piece of architecture in the world".

He traces Vancouver's present bout of construction back to its World Expo in 1986. "We were then a small city in the middle of nowhere which suddenly came to its own consciousness that it was something more, a sanctuary society where you can build your own quality of life," he says.

He generally approves of the quality of new city centre buildings but, with Greater Vancouver's population expected to climb from 1.6m to a possible 3m in the next 20 years, dislikes the uncontrolled eastward sprawl of its suburbs which he sees as the next big challenge to planners.

The entire Library Place development, which also includes shops, parking and a 22-floor office block, cost about C\$200m. But the library's bill was largely offset by the sale of its old building and by acquiring the site at a knockdown price in exchange for leasing the new office tower back to its owner - the federal government. This left Vancouverites with only C\$30m to fund.

The library's popularity stems as much from its facilities as its strong visual impact. Featuring massive purple blocks clad in pre-cast chipped granite, it is more sophisticated than its shape suggests. It comprises two main elements - an outer ring, containing some of the quietest study areas, and a square, inner block housing the books, documents, pictures and banks of IT facilities.

The prominence of the public escalators seems more appropriate to a modern department store than a silent haven of study. However, their audible whirring creates a constant sound barrier against more distracting noises.

The main entrance is situated inside an elliptical promenade which skirts the south side of the building. Rooted in glass, it contains coffee shops, eating places and offices which have become a trendy meeting place in this rainy city.

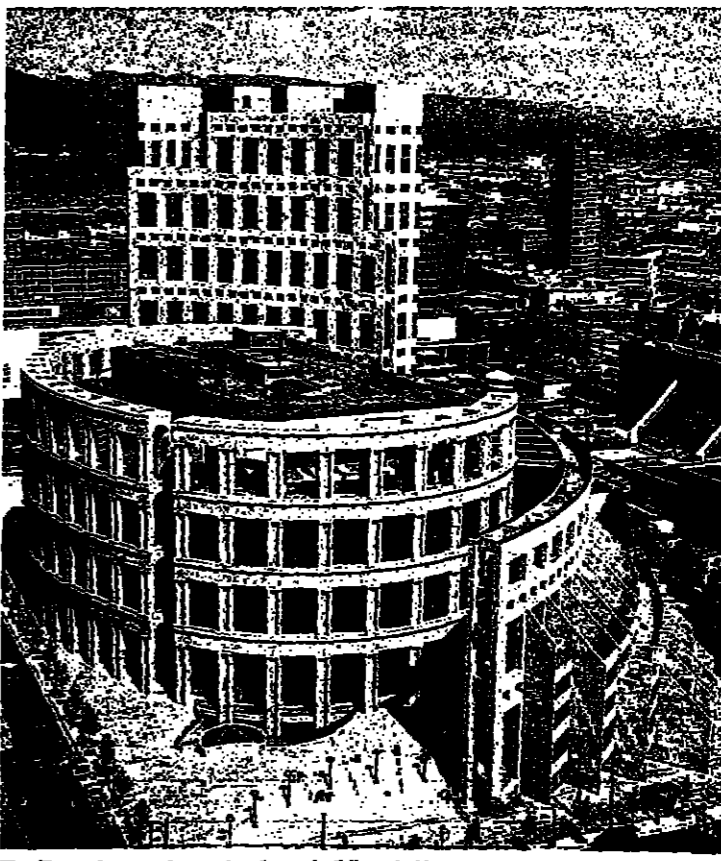
Behind the library stands another new building designed by Safdie. This is the Ford Centre for Performing Arts, an 1,800-seat theatre built by the Canadian Livent entertainment group to stage *Show Boat* and other big musicals for which it owns performing rights. Opened six months ago, it took only 18 months to build and cost C\$24.5m.

Meanwhile, older buildings are also taking on a fresh appearance. The city's most distinctive building, the 80-year-old Hotel Vancouver, has undergone a multi-million dollar face-lift. With its green copper roof, pitched in the style of a 16th century French chateau, it occupies

a pivotal position that, in European cities, would probably contain a cathedral. A monument to the great days of railway buildings, it had recently lost some of its prestige to newer competitors, including the Waterfront Centre which is a member of the same hotel chain. Its refurbishment, including a new C\$12m lobby, will do much to restore its powerful mystique.

Another landmark building is the Canada Place convention and exhibition centre built on the waterfront for the 1986 Expo, and once regarded as Vancouver's architectural answer to the Sydney Opera House. Since last year's potential bookings exceeded the centre's capacity by 40 per cent there is now serious talk of a second convention complex, to raise Vancouver's ranking as a North America conference venue from 54th place to 16th.

The writer flew from Heathrow to Vancouver with Canadian Airlines International which now offers a Club Enpress class (UK reservations 0345-616767). In Vancouver he stayed at the Hotel Vancouver (604 694 3131) and Waterfront Centre (604 691 1951).



The Library is one of a spate of new buildings in Vancouver

HOW TO SPEND IT



■ Captions, clockwise from above: The upstairs interior of the Mulberry flagship store at 41-42 New Bond Street, London W1Y 9 HB. A comfortably classic chair, the Lansdowne Caspar, £1,165 and a Trevelyan panel, £325, from the At Home collection - there is a good selection at Harvey Nichols, Knightsbridge, London SW1 and at the New Bond Street store. The chic little backpack or carriage bag is made from Darwin leather and comes in nude, pistachio, navy or red and is £255. The oak coffee table with wicker drawers from the At Home collection is £360. The coat-dress in richly coloured chenille is from the new Roger Saul Collection which will be on sale at the New Bond Street store and Harrods from September at £260. The Longton Hall cup and saucer comes in packs of two for £38.95, while the silver-plated pistol-handled cutlery is around £27 a piece. And right, the ambitious Roger Saul.

A certain 'Englishness' popular abroad

Mulberry needs to escape its rigidity to have more appeal in its own country, says Lucia van der Post

In 1971, Roger Saul was selling accessories in a shop called "Just Looking" in London's Kings Road. In his spare time he was cutting out pieces of leather and turning them into belts and chokers. This year, he is about to take Mulberry, the company that grew out of this activity, on to the Alternative Investment Market, a placing that values the company at over £30m.

Though it started in a small way, with the £500 given to Saul as a 21st birthday present from his mother, the bags and belts, tweeds and waxed jackets, have become international symbols of a certain English way of life. For what Roger Saul sells is Englishness, or rather a vision of what foreigners imagine the idealised English lifestyle to be. How much relation it bears to life as it is lived is not the point. Like Ralph Lauren, who sells a refined US East Coast version of Englishness, or Gucci which is currently purveying a cutting-edge hipness, it

is the dream that matters - and that sells.

It is a quirk of the Mulberry story that the dream seems to sell best abroad. In Scandinavia, chic Stockholm mothers send their children off to school clutching the Mulberry Scotch-grain trout bag as a satchel. In Paris, the planner to bring out at meetings in medieval is Mulberry's maroon version. In Germany, prosperous matrons sport the Tisbury Bag while in Japan it is "Roger's Briefcase" that the rising executive likes to sport. In Britain, a cult product has yet to emerge.

This so-called "Englishness" to which the foreigner responds so enthusiastically can sometimes, to the English eye, seem over-done. The emphasis in the shops on antiquary and paint effects, on nostalgic props and sporting paraphernalia can seem a trifle bogus. It is the fashion equivalent. If you like, of the mock-Tudor eateries, but it is

hard to fault its authenticity.

Roger Saul really does live in a 15th century manor in Somerset. He surrounds himself with the things he makes. Almost all the products are inspired by things he has lovingly collected. About 85 per cent of all the accessories are manufactured by Mulberry itself, most of it in the workshops in Somerset. Of the household products, almost all are updated interpretations of traditional classics - whether it is furniture or china, soft furnishings or tableware, it all springs from Saul's own genuine enthusiasm for the traditional English country way of life.

The strength, and indeed its weakness, are that it is all of a piece. Saul is the single eye and taste and inspiration behind the range. Whether it is a belt or a diary planner, a sofa or a velvet coat, it is Saul's personal lifestyle and tastes made manifest.

Those whose tastes run to 18th century manor houses, to rustic life on a grand scale, who prefer Sheffield silver to resin and Cumbrian crystal to recycled glass, who like double damask table linens and furniture made from indigenous woods, will find almost all they could ever want in the Mulberry range.

To get to the point today where the company is estimated to be worth over £30m has not always been easy. There have been lots of tough moments along the way. Over-expansion in the early 1980s meant that the business caught a very bad cold in the United States and overnight turnover almost halved.

There have been difficulties in Japan (now resolved) but the 1990s saw real recovery with sales growing from £12.3m in 1990 to £26.3m in 1995, while earnings grew from £548,000 to £1,965,000 in the same

period. Last year, the first complete Mulberry department store, big enough to have the whole range under one roof, opened in Bond Street, London. It was the culmination of a dream and the beginning of what Saul hopes will be steady international expansion.

Roger Saul is aiming high. He sees no reason why Mulberry should not enjoy the kind of international success and cachet of France's Louis Vuitton, Italy's Gucci and Prada, and America's Ralph Lauren.

This is hard to do. Mulberry products, however desirable, seem to some to carry price tags that are hard to justify on rational grounds. But there are those who think that paying well over £300 for a bit of Prada nylon or joining a three-month queue for some Gucci hipsters at over £250 a time is rational behaviour.

Roger Saul would seem to be aim-

ing at that magical territory where customers can be induced to pay far more than the intrinsic value of the goods, where high price tags reassure rather than deter, where products become cult products that customers feel impelled to buy regardless of the cost.

All this means that he has to inject a little more magic into the collection - too rigid a classicism can become a little too predictable - and for the coming autumn it looks as if he has done this. A new collection called The Roger Saul Collection acknowledges the need for something a little less dependent on tweeds and practical all-weather wear - here there is a more directional range that often has a witty take on more classic themes.

There are hip bomber jackets made out of rich chenilles from the home collection and richly glorious evening coats and dresses made from brocades, chenilles and vel-

vets. There are also wonderful velvet evening coats for men and women (Bob Geldof is, it seems, a fan and I should think the purple velvet would be absolutely up his street). There are maxi-suits in gloriously coloured tweeds - again a witty combination of a classic fabric and a very directional shape (maxis are much-predicted for the autumn).

Meanwhile the trout bag, the briefcases, other bags and belts, the luggage and planners go on selling and form the backbone of Mulberry's success.

The At Home collection blossoms, particularly in America where selling the clothing and the accessories has been more difficult. The effort to turn Mulberry into an international name, to rank internationally with Hermès and Gucci, with Ralph Lauren, Prada and Gucci goes on. It would be good to see a British name giving them all a run for their money.

■ The Mulberry Shop is at 41/42 New Bond Street, London W1Y 9HB.

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Go on safari and help the Bushmen

Many readers have asked what they can do to help the Khwe since I wrote about them (April 27/28). The Botswana government has declared its intention of forcibly removing them from their homes in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve, destroying their way of life and taking their land.

John Hardbatt, who has become the spokesman for the Khwe cause, has founded a registered non-governmental, non-profit-making organisation called First People of the Kalahari which, for the first time, has given the Khwe an organised voice. Any funds sent to the organisation will be used to help the Khwe people; the difficulty of communicating with such small scattered groups is huge and the problem of fuel for the bitter winter nights is acute.

The address is First People of the Kalahari, c/o Barclays Bank of Botswana Ltd, Lobatse Branch, Botswana, account no. 8387963. Otherwise the headquarters of First People of the Kalahari is at PO Box 173, Ghanzi, Botswana.

Those who would like to learn about the Khwe at first hand might like to know that John Hardbatt will be running three special trips into the Kalahari desert; those who take part will spend five nights with a band of Bushmen, learning how they make bows and arrows, make medicines from plants and herbs, track and hunt, make jewellery and tan skins. Each safari will end with a traditional Bushman feast and trance dance - an exceptional chance to learn from the Bushmen themselves about their culture and way of life.

Conducted by Hardbatt, who speaks fluent Khwe and is the son of a Bushman mother and a British father, these safaris are not cheap - \$5,000 for five nights, exclusive of air fares to Botswana, for a maximum of 10 people - because most of the funds will be going to help the Khwe people.

Dates on offer are June 25-July 1, July 1-7, and July 7-13. Write to Casanova & Loyd Safaris Ltd, Unit 1, 39 Tadema Road, London SW10 0PY (tel: 0171-376 3726; fax: 0171-376 5237).

L.v.d.P.

Wanted: volunteer Zagateers for London's guide

Travellers to New York will undoubtedly know all about the Zagat Survey. Compiled by two food-loving New York lawyers, the guide consisted of nothing but highly personal experiences and opinions - all of which gave it an immensely readable authority and turned it into one of the best-loved, most used guides to New York's ever-changing restaurant scene.

Each year, 500,000 copies are sold and there is now a Zagat Survey for 38 cities throughout the US and Canada.

Now, Sholto Douglas-Home (the editor), Susan Kessler (a New Yorker who knows and loves food but now lives in London) and Kirsty Smallwood, are compiling a Zagat Survey of London's eateries.

They are inviting readers to give their personal experiences and opinions an airing by helping to compile the guide. As Sholto Douglas-Home puts it: "Anyone can become a London Zagateer by simply sending a stamped, addressed envelope to our London office. Correspondents will then be sent a list of 649 restaurants and can vote on as many restaurants as they feel competent to judge - food, decor and service all need to be ranked on a scale of "0" to "3".

There is also room for comments and estimates of the cost of a single meal with one drink and all charges. There is also space for any other new entries or nominations to be made. Frankness and honesty are the order of the day with contributors being asked to note bad service, decrepit surroundings, bad acoustics or any other factors that could affect the experience.

The New York guide became famous for its helpful categories: dancing, romantic spots, late-night rendezvous, beautiful views are all noted.

The rating and remarks are later processed by computer, printed out, and re-assessed and evaluated by the editor.

The reward for taking part will be a free copy of the guide when published later this year. Anybody keen to take part should hurry as the compilation date is nigh - write to Susan Kessler, London Zagat Survey, 61 Cadogan Square, London SW1X 0EZ, or telephone 0171-244 8430.

السنة 1417

FASHION

Cosmo girl: emancipation in high heels

'There's never been a more exciting time to be a woman' claims the hype. Nigel Spivey investigates

She manifests glamour. Not for her the boiler suits and spare tyres of doctrinaire feminism. Emancipation in high heels and tight skirts is a measure of success in both love and work.

While she is probably unmarried, and certainly childless, the mating ritual is a serious preoccupation. Yet she is independent, even if she is an executrix to her boss herself.

Each issue brings the promise of gilt-embossed resolutions, and the renovation of self and soul. A new look, a new photo of a smart girl stepping out into traffic with stilettos and a briefcase, to the lowered but covetous gaze of grey male bystanders.



measure of back psychoanalysis (usually written by a man), and a changeless style to those pseudo-documentary investigations of sex and relationships.

or calendars: hence this cyclical female time prefers periodic diversions, such as a monthly magazine. Yet men's monthlies are proliferating - including those that are plainly indebted to the style and format of female pioneers such as Cosmopolitan.

archaeology of women's magazines, as newly described by Margaret Beetham, a Manchester historian. Her book spans scarcely 200 years. Beginning with the 1798 Lady's Monthly Museum, the gender-specific journal has always struggled not to patronise women who wanted not always to wear a bra, but who would consider a silicon implant too.

bone corsets in an earlier age. But the history of women's magazines is marked by the failures of those who thought that suffragettes or boilersuits alone could keep a journal going, from the Women's Signal of 1886 to the Spare Rib of late memory.

Two designers who have found their feet

They work with shoes but are poles apart. Avril Groom reports on two contrasting styles



Manolo Blahnik is one of those rare designers whose Christian name becomes almost a generic term for anything made in their style - in his case shoes whose lightness and elegance belie their strength and comfort.

Patrick Cox may not be identified with his wares in quite the same way but Wannabe, the brand-name he invented for his loafer range, is now also used for the multitude of copies his look has spawned.

remain, those who move between newspapers' society pages and the world of fashion, many of them personal friends. He has interpreted most of the shoe trends of the past 25 years, and has invented some of them. He makes his own prototypes, sculpting heel-shapes from wood and sewing

he hates "the responsibility of shoes". He has a cult following in the UK but America made his reputation. There, his slender stilettos were dubbed "chanel shoes", implying that they are only suitable for ladies with limousines.

he may have started as a shoe designer but is now much more. Every season seems to provoke a new Cox direction. "He started with men's shoes - because that is the British shoemaking tradition".

that it started as a design for himself. "I wanted a white loafer like Peewee Herman used to wear. The Gucci loafer struck me as too thin and effeminate - I wanted something chunkier and gutsier."

better quality than his own, he asked the manufacturers to take on all his production. The shape changes each season - different toe-outlines, heel heights, trims and fabrics - so connoisseurs build up a Wannabe wardrobe.

concessions, bags and other accessories. He has been accessory design winner at the British Fashion awards for the last two years. Cox is aware that Wannabes may reach saturation point, so he is building up his main range.

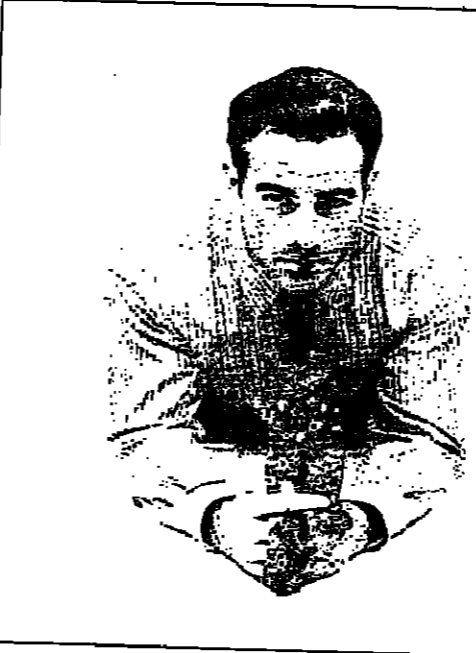
In women's styles, Cox produced 'fetishistic shapes' with high stilettos, ankle-straps and chains

on the finest details that are then put into production by several small Italian factories. Some special pieces, such as his beaded evening shoes, are worked in Milan by an elderly woman who used to embroider for Balenciaga.

Patrick Cox, on the other hand, will not do shows, either for himself or any other designer. He worked with Vivienne Westwood and Body Map on their shows while at college and with other leading designers such as John Galiano and Anna Sui since.

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TRAVEL

Where Ballesteros leads, tourists follow

Golf is leading the march in the trend to combine holidays with sport. The world's top players put resorts and courses on the map - and the paying public can follow in their footsteps. Over these four pages, FT writers highlight the best and the bizarre. Here, Derek Lawrenson tees off in Jamaica and Florida

Only 24 people watched Severiano Ballesteros's first round of golf for five months at the Moroccan Open in March, and eight of those were representatives from the British press. Elsewhere, Ian Woosnam, the other household name who was playing, drew a gallery that varied between seven and 10, depending upon the hole. The majority of players were watched merely by their caddy.

Why do sponsors put up big money to host these events throughout southern Europe and northern Africa, when there is a palpable lack of interest among the locals? There is only one reason: golf being the one sport that allows the public to walk in the footsteps of the famous, they hope to attract holiday players to follow in their footsteps.

Indeed, without the help of various tourist boards steeply believing in this, the European Tour - the organisation that runs the European programme of golf tournaments - would probably not open for business until May. Turanspa, the Spanish board, has put so much money into the professional game over the last decade that the 1997 Ryder Cup was awarded to Spain, largely as a thank you.

The formula works. It is surely not merely coincidence that, as a result, Andalucía remains the favoured destination of most golfers from Britain when choosing their trip abroad, although it is interesting to note that tastes have also become more exotic.

Luxury holiday specialists Elegant Resorts has seen its golf-related business develop to such an extent that it is launching a "Golf Resorts of the World" brochure next year. The destinations featured will be as diverse as Mt Juliet in Ireland to the Datal resort in Malaysia.

Geoff Moss, its managing director, explains: "It is not merely a coincidence that many of the holidays that are selling particularly well for us are those that offer some ele-

ment of golf. We have seen a huge surge in interest in the sport in recent years. Five years ago it would have accounted for about 10 per cent of our business but now it is more like 25 per cent, and I think this is a clue as to where the future lies for the holiday market in general.

"People are more independent these days, they have grown tired of package holidays. They are interested in vacations that combine some element of sport, and golf is at the forefront of this market."

Certainly, the growing golf holiday business has evolved from the days when it encompassed merely a group of men intent on emulating Ballesteros by day and reliving their youth by night.

The increasing numbers of women who have taken up the game, or who are prepared to have lessons while on holiday, has led to a sea-change in what people want from their fortnight away. Elegant Resorts is organising a program to Mauritius in October and expects most of the travellers to be couples.

The game's pristine image has also been used as a commercial tool to help deal with adverse publicity. Jamaica and Florida were two destinations that were struck off many people's holiday lists after stories of tourists being killed.

It was difficult not to have great sympathy with the owners of the Half Moon Club in Montego Bay, who have put together the complete golf resort. The only shots you have to worry about there are those you will play on the golf course.

The Johnnie Walker World Championship, held nearby at Tryall every December, drew attention to the fine golf available in Jamaica. Certainly the setting is sumptuous, with the short fourth hole laid out alongside the shoreline. On the back nine, the course moves up into the mountain, and offers breathtaking views.

The 18 holes at the Half Moon Club - it takes its name from the shape of the beach upon which it was originally set - was similarly



designed by Robert Trent Jones, the golf course designer.

As with many other resorts, the Half Moon has a golf plan, designed to cater for husbands and wives who intend to play during their holiday. Actually the Half Moon has so many plans one could easily spend a night planning which plan to have. The best is the imperial plan, where everything is included in the price.

We stayed at a villa overlooking the sea and built on the property. All villas have private pools and staff who cater to every reasonable whim, from cooking meals to preparing drinks and washing clothes. The price for a three-bedroom villa

is \$4,190 for a week, excluding flights.

Like Jamaica, Florida, the third most popular destination for British golfers after Spain and Portugal, is regaining its image partly through the efforts of its first-class resorts.

In December I visited the Boca Raton Resort and Club, about an hour from Miami airport. I had dinner one evening with the resort's president, and he froze when I mentioned the words tourists, guns and bad publicity. He regarded it as ridiculous as staying away from Britain because of IRA terrorism.

Boca Raton has achieved a certain fame among golfers in recent weeks. German player Bernhard

Langer, one of its most famous residents, has renewed his acquaintance with the dreaded putting "rips". How convenient, then, that Dave Pelz, the golf teacher who specialises in short game techniques, is based at the Boca Raton Resort and Club. Langer has become a regular customer. Not that Pelz needed a plug. His golf schools sell out almost as they are announced.

The best golf resort that I have visited has become even better over the last year. To celebrate its centenary in 1995 the owners of Pinehurst, North Carolina, commissioned a new golf course, perhaps extravagant, considering they already had seven to offer their

guests. But the new course, designed by the renowned American architect Tom Fazio, opened for business last month and I am pleased to report it is a beauty.

Surrounded by all these golf courses, one might imagine Pinehurst to be infected by the American idea that equates size with quality. But in fact it is not tainted by such garishness at all. The hotel is elegant and sedate and the drive up to it sublime. The small village of Pinehurst is almost English in its understated manner.

The courses go by no fancy names. Numbers suffice, and while it can cause confusion - the new course, number eight, for example,

is ranked number two - it also characterises the essential simplicity of the place.

Do play number two, the venue for the 1999 US Open, where one can walk gloriously free of the hindrance of a cart that is sadly compulsory on so many courses in the US. Designed by the Scotsman Donald Ross, number two is right up there with Shinnecock Hills, Pine Valley, Augusta and Pebble Beach - the five shimmering jewels of American golf.

Derek Lawrenson travelled to the Half Moon Club and Boca Raton Resort and Club with Elegant Resorts, The Old Palace, Chester CE1 1RB (01244-897999).

Portugal Drive to be best in Moorish surroundings

Portugal's first golf course at Oporto was opened in 1890 by British wine merchants. In the 1930s, Estoril, near Lisbon, was a playground for the called rich, but it was the Algarve, with the prospect of year-round sunshine and a new airport at Faro, which established itself as a popular golfing region in the late 1950s and early 1970s.

Vale do Lobo, Vilamoura and Quinta do Lago were the first to take off in the central area of the 150km coastline stretching from the Spanish border to Cape St Vincent in the extreme west. Vale do Lobo was the brainchild of Sir Richard Costain, the builder, who saw it as a latter-day Eden.

Today, its 27 holes - the original 18-hole course was designed by Sir Henry Cotton, one of Britain's greatest golfers - are surrounded by a 1,000-acre estate of villas, townhouses and apartments, and 25 other sporting activities.

Vilamoura has three courses, a marina, casino, air strip and a master plan to house 55,000. Quinta do Lago sees itself as a kind of Beverly Hills of golf, with the new San Lorenzo course joining the four nine-hole loops.

The central area has sophistication and prices to match. The mix is different in the western Algarve, where Moorish patterns are more obvious, and life has a simpler rhythm. Penina, for example, Cotton's pioneer course between Portimao and Lagos, stays close to his original concept although it has just undergone a 15-month reconstruction.

Its 180-room five-star hotel, also enjoying a 5km refurbishment, remains its own centre, set against the background of the Monchique mountains. It is primarily a place for a leisurely golfing holiday rather than an excuse for an expatriate village. And while Granada has taken over from Fort's Meridian Group, the former owners' policy is likely to remain the same.

There is no clubhouse because the hotel is the clubhouse. Locker, pro shop and caddy-master office merge into reception and dining rooms. Hotel guests enjoy priority on



Parque da Floresta in the western Algarve, a golf course typical of the region

the tee but pay-and-play is perfectly possible, helped by two nine-hole courses.

Even from the front tees, the flat, impenetrable Penina with its avenues of trees and strategic water remains a test of long, accurate striking. Peter Dawson, the former Ryder Cup player formerly of Harlow in northern France, is golf director, and is encouraged by good reports of tees and greens, and fairways well served by rainfall which has ended the long drought.

The fifth hole now has a large lake in front of the green, the dog leg of the ninth has been banked and given a knuckle of bunkers, and the 200-metre 13th has an even larger expanse of water. Everywhere, the greens profit from mounds offering better sight lines.

The dog leg of the ninth has been banked and given a knuckle of bunkers

Western Algarve golf properly begins at Carvoeiro, on the coast just below the wine centre of Lagos. The Gramacho and Pinta courses have to succeed in tandem with an intended housing development of 400 units.

The recovery from Europe's recession has been a slow one, and it is as well that Stuart Woodman, the English golfing director, formerly at Quinta do Lago, has ensured good use of the courses. A David Leadbetter Academy is starting in September, and that can only add to the attraction.

For the Pinta, Ronald Fream, the US architect, characteristically built on the natural landscape, which means the reten-

tion of such items as the dry stone Moorish walls and an ancient olive tree.

Gramacho has 18 greens and 18 tees and nine fairways. It is clever stuff, with fairways divided by rock outcrops and trees. The greens, Woodman says, are of Augusta standards.

Ten miles west over the Portimao bypass and bridge across the Arade river, a left turn at Penina brings the coastal resort of Alvor and a 1991 development known as the Alto club. The 6,125-metre course was Cotton's last. The first nine holes are a parkland test with views to Lagos Bay. The course then turns inland to hills, and the longest par five in Europe, at 604 metres. Any golfer making a birdie earns a certificate from the English club pro, Robert Bridge.

Five miles closer to Lagos, across a dimpled estuary, Dennis Garvey is the English secretary of Palmares, a club with no dependency on development. Since 1976 Palmares has provided a genuine flavour of old Portugal. In the early days

it was inconceivable that a golf club could lie south of the N125 over the crooked track from the little village of Odiaxere.

At Palmares, Frank Pennik contrived five links holes falling away to the deserted white dunes of Mesia Praia and climbing back for 13 undulating fairways among fig and cork trees. The view northwards is to the wild mountains of Monchique. The greens are closely shaved, motorised carts are available in the heat, and the group ahead is as likely to be German as British.

But Palmares has a timelessness of its own and at between £30 and £35 a round, it is one of the cheaper courses at a time when Portuguese golf is becoming expensive.

Farthest west, five miles beyond the maritime sweep of Lagos, Parque da Floresta offers the quirkiest challenge of the Algarve. The cartoonist Morillo might have designed the original, with the 577-yard first threatening a descent into an abyss, and the hump of the fifth readily returning you there. Pepe Gancedo, its designer, is a former Spanish amateur champion.

John Samuel

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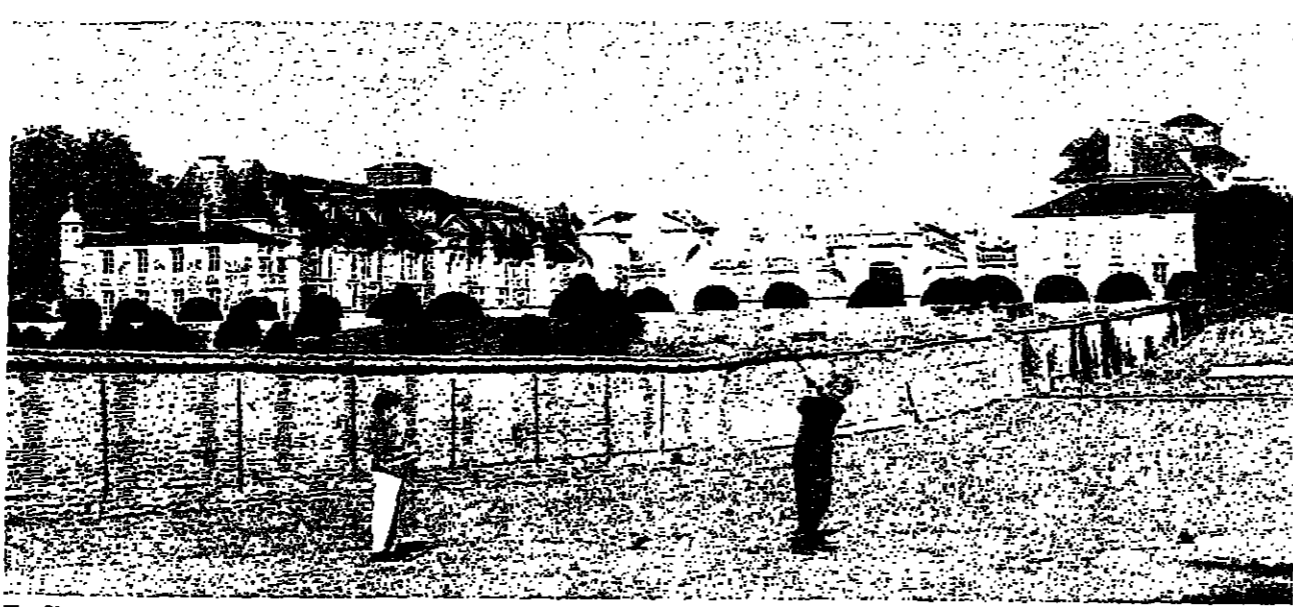
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TRAVEL

French women of a certain class and style are especially keen on golf. The driving ranges which preface every serious French course often see them in an earnest, elegant row...



The Champ de Bataille course near Rouen

Many have obtained their Green Cards from the French Federation, but it is more a licence to operate than a determination of handicap. It means you have learned the rules of etiquette and know broadly how to conduct yourself on the course.

Self-deprecation is sometimes a Gallic way of getting back at the English, and no European country has built more golf courses in the last 15 years nor made more effort to accommodate foreign tourists, as well as its own, than France.

John Gould's Golf Academy at the Frégate is always busy. It is a course as natural as it is beautiful, artfully shaped from exposed Provencal rock, pines and vineyards down to the cliffs which characterise the coast from Marseilles to Toulon.

France / John Samuel An infinite variety

Golf International (FGI), a collocation of the French Golf Federation, produces guides and maps, sets strict conditions on course standards, green fees and hotel rates and encourages group passes.

Northern France is rather more crowded, especially courses served by the Channel tunnel and shorter sea routes. Francis Lesur finds demand steadily increasing for his two courses at Hurdol.

You cannot expect to turn up and get a prompt tee time everywhere, and that is where specialist British-based operators will cut out the hassle.

There is no end to France's contrast. The course at Chamoux, one of 60 in the Rhone-Alpes, offers glimpses of Mont Blanc and the Aiguille du Midi.

That was certainly so on another Provencal course, Golf de la Sainte Baume, 30 minutes from Marseilles airport, flatish with a persistently demanding stream. The cobalt cliffs of Cézanne's Sainte Victoire mountains rim the eastern horizon.

Each hole was named after a wartime hero. My favourite was Marechal Montgomery

Doug Mathieson, of BDH Golf, one of the most experienced short-break operators, sees increasing need for flexibility in his Channel coast and Brittany programmes where accommodation, green fees and ferry or shuttle crossings can be mixed and matched.

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Zimbabwe / Barry Ward

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It requires no mental effort to compute that the Triangle Golf Club, in the low veldt of Zimbabwe, offers the finest value in the world of golf.

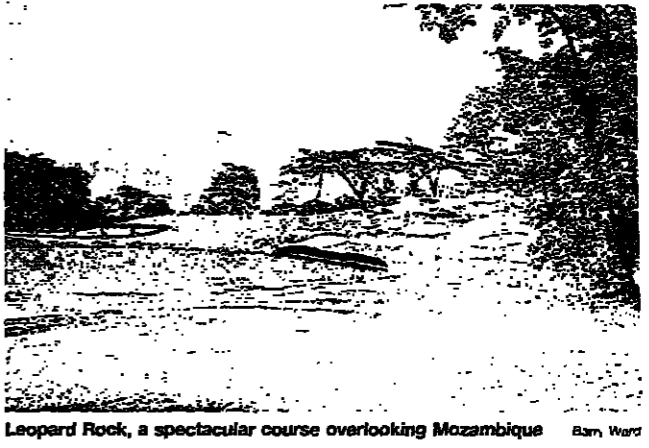
It flies small groups around the country to luxurious safari lodges and hotels, most of which have golf nearby. Hence our day at Triangle.

Harare and Chapman's, neighbouring courses in the capital. With a dozen or so courses nearby, one could enjoy a golfing holiday without leaving Harare, but Leopard Rock is only three hours by road and to miss it would be short-sighted.

Do not retrieve a ball from the lakes lest you disturb a snoozing crocodile

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Standard practice is to stop at the half-way house and to give the caddy a tip so that he too can have a drink. Tips and fees vary but all clubs advise against over-tipping.



Leopard Rock, a spectacular course overlooking Mozambique

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TRAVEL

Norway Avoid blizzards and snow golf is quite fun

Peter Whitehead wields his four-iron to devastating effect on the piste in a winter wonderland

How, I wondered as I read the invitation, could a golf tournament take place in the snowbound mountains of Norway in late winter? During the Norwegian winter, even football pitches are converted into skating rinks and the opportunities for playing golf would surely be few.

What made it even less likely is that the exact location of most golf courses can only be guessed at: looking into the snow-filled valley from a ski slope above Hemsedal, in central southern Norway, we were told the golf course was "over there... or perhaps over there".

Yet the invitation was clear enough. I had been invited to take part in what the people of Hemsedal - better known as a ski resort - call their two-day Vintergolf tournament, now in its fifth year.

In an effort that would shame fair-weather golfers everywhere, a nine-hole golf course is prepared. Piste-blasting machines from the ski centre flatten the snow into fairways; "greens" are smoothed; and holes, flags and tees installed.

It is costly in both time and money for a course that is used for just the weekend of the tournament.

So was serious golf possible in such conditions? At least there was no forecast of a repetition of the blizzard that had once obliterated the course. The flatmen and smoothers had to work all night that year. But there were anxious mutterings about the possibility of fresh snow on Saturday night, which was hard to credit as we

scanned the deep blue skies of Friday.

Saturday turned out crisp and clear, temperatures a little below zero, and choosing what to wear became the pressing issue. A golf swing is best practised in light, loose clothing with spiked shoes; how could I swing a club wearing T-shirt, rugby shirt, fleece sweater, ski jacket, long johns, two pairs of socks, hiking boots, compulsory bright red baseball cap (with ear-flaps), and sunglasses?

It was not quite golf as we

Keeping the greens playable was a cold, thankless and mostly solitary task for the smoothers

know it, but it was golf. Vintergolf demands precision and on the first day I was too bold, sacrificing accuracy for distance. I hit a chait, a hut and the same barn roof twice.

On Sunday - there had been an inch or so of fresh snow - I struck with my favourite four-iron and hit nearly every fairway.

The "rough", waist-deep in places, was best avoided. A ball could sometimes be retrieved by reaching deep into the snow below its small entry hole; more often it was unretrievable.

Keeping the greens playable was a cold, thankless and

mostly solitary task for the smoothers, particularly for the perfectionist who stood at the ninth hole on the second day. We waited as he swept a flawless track between hole and ball for Siri Carlsen, our playing partner.

A typical Norwegian, she spoke English beautifully and explained that she planned to let her ball run across the newly smoothed section of the green.

There was then silence as she flicked the ball right over the cleared path and it plopped into a footprint a yard beyond the hole. The perfectionist's robust reaction came in Norwegian but was probably not reportable in any language.

There are a few local rules - using tee pegs on the fairway, conceding putts within a club's length of the hole, for example - but the rules of the Royal and Ancient can otherwise be fairly rigorously applied.

The number of entrants is limited to a little over 100 and among this year's field was one of the world's best ski racers, Andre Amodd. It is rare for my name to appear above that of a world and Olympic champion - but with the aid of the generous visitors' handicap, I finished second overall in my category. Amodd, though playing well, chose not to return his scorecard and so came near to last.

Entry costs Nkr400 (£40) for the two days, or Nkr250 for one day. A Saturday-night dinner costs Nkr185.

But why do it? Anne Karine Ness, of the Hemsedal tourist office, was always ready with an answer. "We must have some fun," she said. The aim is to play Vintergolf on more weekends through the winter



Driving in the snow on the tee is Chris Marshall, aiming to avoid the 'rough', waist-deep in places

but cost may prevent it.

Meanwhile, a few feet below the Vintergolf course, a real, brand new, nine-hole golf course lies in wait. The valley venue would be a gorgeous spot to play golf at any time and this spring, after the snow is gone, it will be possible for the first time on grass. It is scheduled to open on June 1.

The golfers of Hemsedal had hoped play would be possible at their new club last year but were disappointed to find the grass unfit after the thaw. How could they be confident that it would be ready this year? "Well, it was grass before the snow fell," Ness assured us.

The new course will give Hemsedal two nine-hole courses - the Hemsedal golf club 10km to the north and Hallingdal golf club, 13km to the south. "It means we have an 18-hole course with 23 kilometres between the ninth and the tenth," said Harald Lystad, the jovial Hemsedal golf club

director. In fact, the distances make transport an irritation. Buses are infrequent and taxis expensive - it could cost about Nkr120 to go from the town to the golf course. My playing partner asked one taxi driver: "We have been told there are 78 millionaires in Hemsedal - are you one of them?" The driver shook his head, sadly.

"You surprise me," replied my friend, with his eye on the taxi's meter.

More generally, prices in Norway are little different from the rest of Europe: alcohol is still relatively expensive but a ski lift pass, for example, is far cheaper than for an Alpine resort.

Hemsedal is trying to increase its number of hotels, ski lifts and pistes in an ambitious project to link the slopes to the town centre - the ski centre is 3km away. Permission has been granted but the town is not rushing ahead with

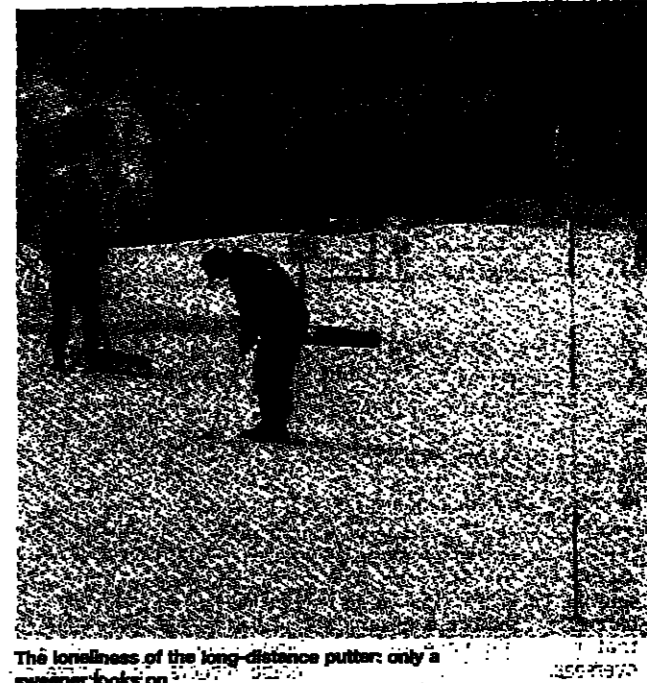
costly mistakes: a co-ordinated plan is being drawn up. For now, it remains a pleasant small ski resort.

As we left town, the ski centre for more snow - it has been the worst winter for snow for about 80 years - so that it could keep its runs open until the scheduled May closing date.

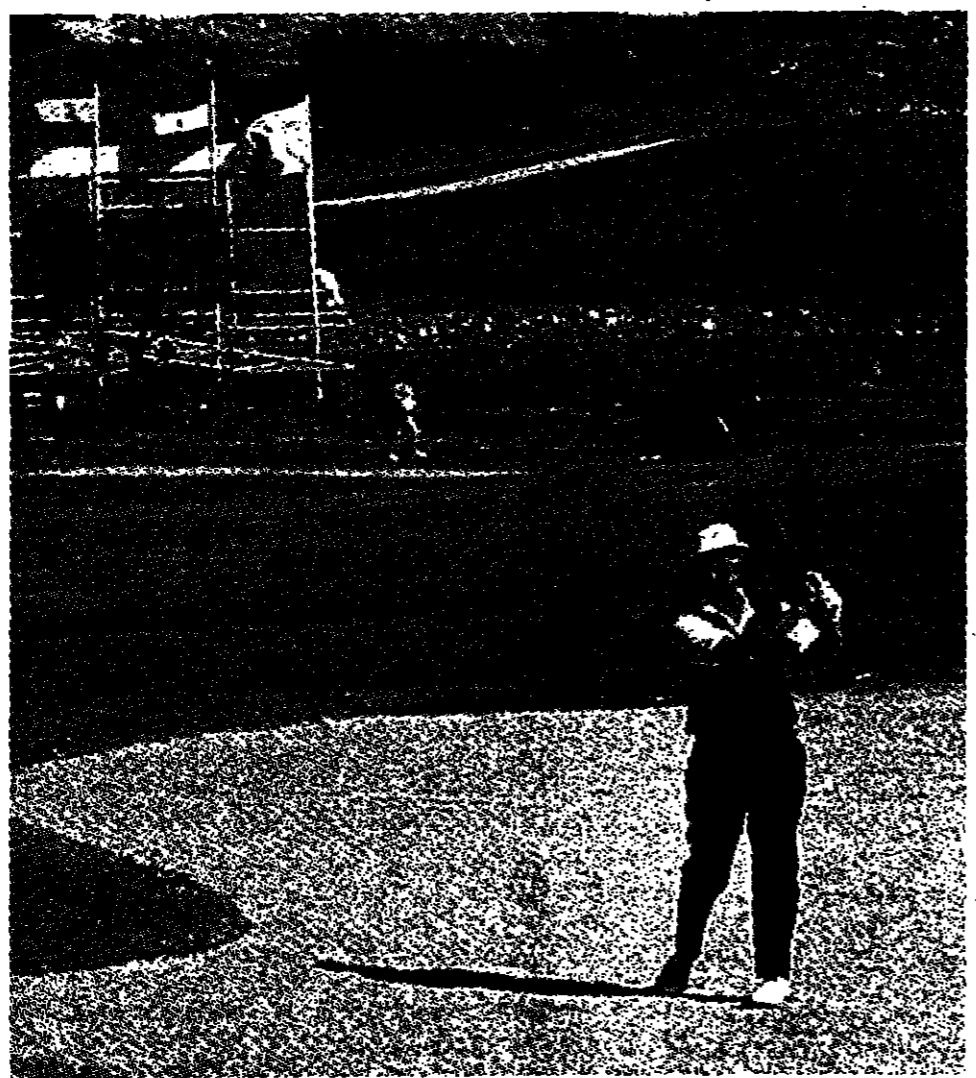
Golfers, meanwhile, were growing impatient for the thaw.

But when the snow does go, I hope they will find plenty of healthy grass on their new course - and perhaps a few of those red golf balls I lost along the way.

Peter Whitehead flew with SAS Scandinavia Airlines (0845-010789) and stayed at the Skogstad Hotel. For more information on Hemsedal or Vintergolf, contact the Norwegian Tourist Board on 0171-529 6255, or the Hemsedal tourist office, on 00-47 33 06 01 56.



The loneliness of the long-distance putter: only a sweeper looks on



Jack Nicklaus: not all his courses are Swedish

Colorado Driving through the Rockies

Who would want to build a golf course in a ski resort? Derek Lawrenson finds out

With snow turning the greens to white for 220 days a year one wonders why anyone would want to build golf courses 9,000ft up in the Colorado Rockies. But they did and they do and in no time at all, Breckenridge and Keystone, two names synonymous with a certain winter sport, have become known for a summer game too.

It is not hard to see why, for there are enormous advantages to playing holiday golf there in July and August, compared with virtually all of the rest of America.

For a start, the three most popular golfing destinations, South Carolina, Florida, and Arizona, are all shrouded in the most oppressive humidity at this time. The saying about the midday sun and Englishmen must have come about from naive holidaymakers travelling to these parts during the school holidays. Certainly no one else would dream of straying outdoors.

But in Colorado the humidity is non-existent by comparison. The days invariably begin cool and by 10am it is shirt-sleeve weather. By mid-

afternoon a storm may well have settled on the mountain tops, a stark and dramatic interlude to what is going on down below. Obligingly, it rarely interferes with the golf.

Secondly, the ball travels 10 per cent further through the thin mountain air. Who does not enjoy having their ego gently massaged in this manner? Do remember, though, that a sliced tee shot will go 10 per cent further into trouble.

Breckenridge is the only Jack Nicklaus-designed municipal golf course. Not being a fan of Nicklaus's architecture, it was with some sense of dread that I approached a course that measures a hardly trifling 7,300 yards from the championship tees. Somebody should have told him the advantage over normal playing conditions is 10, not 40 per cent.

As it turned out, from the 6,600 yards men's tees, Breckenridge was both playable and enjoyable. The back nine, in particular, offered panoramic views of the Ten Mile mountain range and Baldy Mountain - honestly, they must sit up for days wracking their brains to come up with these names -

with the 12th, a fiendish par five, the pick.

So there is a novelty: a Nicklaus course that does not leave a player on his knees at the end. It comes as no surprise to learn that this was one of his early efforts. Clearly sadism

'The clubhouse is a 60-year-old former ranch house and the cuisine on offer is first class'

was something he picked up along the way.

In all, there are around 20 courses in the ski resorts area to the west of Denver, providing invaluable income on the 130 days a year that the number one sport is not available. Green fees are very reasonable by American standards, as are the hotel rates.

Keystone Ranch is always included in any top 10 listing

of the best courses in the state. It was designed by Robert Trent Jones jr and offers virtually the whole gamut of golfing sensations.

The first two holes, for example, are threaded through dense woodland. The opening tee shot looks terrifying but here Jones employs one of his favourite tricks, that of an illusionist, and the landing area is rather wider than first appears. Thereafter the holes weave their way through rolling meadowland and the back nine is played in the shadow of some characteristically spectacular scenery.

The course is built on an old working ranch and its origins are evident with the par three 5th hole played against a backdrop of the old farmstead. The clubhouse is a 60-year-old former ranch house and the cuisine on offer is first class.

It was difficult not to marvel at the condition of a course that spends so long in hibernation. Steve Cornellier, who looks after it, said it looks pretty wrinkled when it emerges at the end of April. But we played it in August and by then the wrinkles had long been ironed out.

So to the longest drive I have ever hit in my life, one that literally disappeared from view into the ether. It came at the end of a 40-minute cable car ride that left me white knuckled and knee buckled. The last time I had been in a cable car - there was a storm raging at the time - I had elected to walk down from the top of the mountain to which we had been riding rather than go through it again.

Walking, on this occasion, happened to be something that mountaineer Chris Bonington would only have considered in some seriously spiked golf shoes, let alone me.

Anyway, we were at the top of North Peak to sample the food at the Outpost, and the Alpenglow Shute restaurant.

I am sure it was marvellous but my stomach was in no condition to tell. And so I contented myself with teeing up my ball on the edge of the 11,400ft mountain and driving off into the great beyond.

The ball is probably still rolling.

Derek Lawrenson flew to Denver courtesy of Continental Airlines.

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Britain Just an iron away...

For all their wanderlust, most British golfers have some of the best golf holidays on their own doorstep.

Membership of their county union, sometimes for as little as £5, may enable them to play the courses of their own or a neighbouring county at heavily discounted rates.

If you play at a centrally placed club, as I do at Haywards Heath, West Sussex, you can readily get to and from a host of fine courses in a day: Royal Ashdown Forest, Royal Eastbourne, Nevill, Seaford and Worthing in the big league. Also interesting and challenging are Wealden or Cooden Beach, Cophorne, Crowborough Beacon, Dyke, East Brighton, Goodwood, Littlehampton and Piddington.

Fifty clubs are in the scheme. From Monday to Friday they will offer a reduced fee, usually by between £3 and £5; once a year. An advance phone call is advised to ensure a course is not closed for a club event or society.

You may be asked to show your county card, with handicap certified by your club secretary. Most clubs are welcoming and relaxed, pleased that you want to try them.

Sussex and Kent are interlinked so that I can, for example, play Knole Park, Cranleigh, or Tunbridge Wells on a reduced basis.

However, many English clubs have restricted access, or are expensive to pay and play. England has not much more than 30 per cent of courses open to passing trade. The Belvoir, the Professional Golfers'

Association headquarters club, may offer a four-ball slot, but at £55 a head. The total of £220 would represent an annual membership fee at many Scottish clubs.

Scotland has long seen golf as a tourist asset, with more than 90 per cent of its courses open to passing players. St Andrews and, in particular, the Old and New courses is a worldwide attraction.

Overseas visitors, especially, have a "hit list" of championship venues: St Andrews, Muirfield, Turnberry, Troon, Carnoustie, Gleneagles and Loch Lomond among them. The Scottish Tourist Board is anxious to promote its additional quality courses, many with reasonably priced accommodation nearby.

John Samuel

TRAVEL

Barbados A jewel of a course on 'platinum coast'

Five years ago it was fashionable to relate the boom in golf course construction taking place in Britain with a similar period of expansion in the 1930s. No one is making such comparisons now. The grand openings have become few and far between and they are not so grand when they occur. A few high-price failures have seen to that.

There have been one or two notable contributions, such as Loch Lomond and The Oxfordshire, but many other entrepreneurs have learned the expensive lesson that a championship golf course involves large amounts of capital with no prospect of a short-term return. The days of courses with lavish development costs in excess of £25m may have gone for good.

The Rooney family did not need to carry out masses of research to discover this. Based in Yorkshire, the patriarch Bill had made his wealth

in Hawaii called Princeville. Like Westmoreland it came highly recommended, but I thought it a nightmare. It was so difficult that an eight-handicap player like myself struggled constantly. Seventy-five per cent of the golfers on it had not a hope. After 16 holes and 5 1/2 hours, I walked off the course. I wrote an article on the experience and received more favourable correspondence than for any other piece. Clearly, I am not alone in disliking this type of course that goes under the euphemism of holiday golf.

Trent Jones's answer was that he builds all venues to the brief of the owners, and such was the course he was asked for on that occasion.

Julian Rooney, the amenable 31-year-old managing director at Westmoreland, appeared to have my article on his mind when we met. His greeting was: "You'll be pleased to know this isn't a throw-your-clubs-in-the-gully type of Trent Jones course."

Indeed it is not. Off the back tees, with the omnipresent trade wind as its ally, it provides a stern test for any player. Yet off the blue tees, for the average golfer, it is an example of what holiday golf should be all about.

The par-threes, in particular, are sublime illustrations of an architect's craft. It is difficult to think of any course with a better collection of four short holes. There are also two delightful short par fours. It may also be the only course in the world where the ocean is visible on every hole and yet it is not a links course.

Given that 360 of Westmoreland's 450 members will be the home owners, the course can be seen as a perk for purchasers. It is some perk.

The development has also stimulated interest on the island in the sport. Sandy Lane has responded with plans to build a further nine holes, while other courses are being talked about, including at least one public course for locals who could not hope to afford the membership fees at Sandy Lane and Westmoreland.

One, called Elvis, spoke proudly of how his handicap had tumbled from 19 to 12 in six months

from fitted kitchens and he wanted to use some of the equity to develop a golf destination. It was quickly apparent that he would have to look overseas.

His eldest son Julian organised research in parts of Europe, large swaths of the US and the Caribbean. It was three years before they settled on a beautiful 480-acre site in the parish of St James in Barbados. Eighteen holes have now been built, with nine more to come. The investment, the largest undertaken by a foreign private concern on the island, will be recouped through the building of 350 luxury homes, concentrated around one of the nine hole loops. The venue has been named Royal Westmoreland.

St James is at the heart of what has become known as the island's "platinum coast", because of the wealth of the people who live and spend their holidays there. It is perhaps surprising that they have made do until now with golf of a more ordinary hue. In the form of the 18 holes available at the Sandy Lane resort.

Bill Rooney, who has a holiday home on the island, knew there was a demand and Royal Westmoreland certainly meets the need for a first-class venue.

Twelve months ago I visited Moscov with the Westmoreland architect, Robert Trent Jones, and he could not stop talking about the site he was developing in Barbados. Now the reasons for his enthusiasm are apparent. Yet I felt some trepidation at playing Westmoreland, on account of another Trent Jones course I encountered in Hawaii called Princeville.

At the island's Grantley Adams airport, the sight of a golf bag coming off the carousel was once so rare that Bajans greeted such odd-shaped luggage with puzzled expressions. No longer.

Derek Lawrenson ■ The writer travelled to Barbados with Caribbean Connection (01244-341131) and stayed at Cobblers Cove on the St James coast. For information on Royal Westmoreland, contact 0171-855 0028.



Sumptuous golfing: La Palmerie in Marrakesh

Morocco Seaside adventures

The fortune teller in the market square of Marrakesh was only partly correct in his predictions; but that was to be expected, he was not a golfer. "You'll have much good fortune and see many wonderful sights," he said. "But beware of strangers bearing long sticks who will demand money."

In fact, the rate for Moroccan caddies is 70 dirhams (£5). Throw in a half-way drink and a tip and at a total below £10 it is hardly daylight robbery.

The game is booming there. Until about 1986 there were only seven courses, now there are 23, most of high quality. King Hassan II is an avid golfer and that has helped the cause and the year-round tourist industry at which the new projects are directed.

Some cities have at least two courses, many designed by American architect Cabell Robinson. Most golf clubs are set in wooded country, a pointer to high water tables which contribute to a commendable standard of presentation. Unlimited water and sunshine plus cheap labour equates to a greenkeeper's dream. Without exception the courses are in impeccable condition: striped fairways, chequered greens, pristine bunkers, it all looks a treat.

Options are varied for the travelling golfer. You could stay in a city hotel using inexpensive taxis to nearby courses, while non-golfing partners investigate the souks and sights.

More adventurous souls might contemplate a two-centre stay, driving between cities and stopping en route.

About 170 miles would be the longest drive necessary between two cities - Marrakesh and Agadir - but other journeys are appreciably shorter, particularly from Casablanca, and the country roads are of a reasonable standard.

Most cities are on or near the coast: Tangier, Casablanca, Agadir, Rabat and El Jadida all have appealing golf and the usual seaside attractions. The exceptions are Fez and Marrakesh, both inland but equally worth a golfing detour.

Marrakesh, one of the oldest centres of civilisation, is the home of La Mamounia, numbered among the world's great hotels and a favourite of Sir Winston Churchill. Film stars still holiday there and some frequent the

Royal Golf Club, built in the 1920s by the Pasha for his guests. Gentle and scenic, with lofty palms and flowering shrubbery, it is a welcoming course.

Nearby is an outstanding resort, a 314-roomed, five-star hotel offering five restaurants, tennis, horse riding, a bowling alley and a nightclub-disco. Opened in 1983, it is the centrepiece of Palmerie Golf Palace and a course designed by Robert Trent Jones sr. Sumptuous sums it up.

Agadir is a coastal resort with two courses and cascades of flowering shrubbery, winds its way through stands of palms and mimosa trees. It is ostensibly innocuous, but deceptively so.

With 27 holes, designed by Cabell Robinson, The Dunes nearby is also within two miles of the city centre and laid out in woodland interspersed with a necklace of lakes, waterfalls and fountains. Several holes are memorable, all are beautiful and challenging.

Casablanca is on the coast about 150 miles to the north, with the Mohammedia golf club a further 35 minutes away. Both deserve extended visits. The golf course, venerable by local standards, opened in 1935 and was extended from nine to 18 holes in 1947. It is described as a links but it might best be categorised as seaside parkland.

Whatever the definition, it is a fine test, winding through trees and shrubbery to contoured greens. The rolling terrain and a constant sea breeze demand precise judgment and you will need a sound short game.

Finally to Rabat, 50 miles from Casablanca, where lies Royal Rabat, thought to be King Hassan's favourite. This boasts a nine-hole, the par-72 blue course of 6,700 yards, and the red course, a monster of 7,320 yards from the back tees.

A feature hole, initially considered bizarre but since copied frequently, is the ninth, a par-three over water to an island green reached by a bridge. At 189 yards it is a challenge. I missed the green, twice.

Barry Ward

■ Marrakesh Express, tel: 0141-323 1991, offers a range of golf packages covering several cities with flights from Heathrow and Gatwick using GB Airways, now operating under the flag of British Airways.

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SPORT

Sporting Profile

Faldo: the greatest golfer Europe has bred

Why this man? Why now? Derek Lawrenson on a real champion

Is Nick Faldo the finest European golfer of all time? There is not much doubt now. In March supporters of Harry Vardon, Harry Cotton and Severiano Ballesteros could still have put up vociferous arguments in favour of their man, but what happened at the Masters last month means only the one-eyed follower would try now.

Over the next fortnight Faldo will be making what amounts to a celebratory tour of southern England, playing in the Benson and Hedges International at the Oxfordshire and then the Volvo PGA Championship at Wentworth. No doubt many who will turn up to watch will do so wondering: Why this man? What makes him better than anyone else?

Certainly if golf was purely a game of skill then Faldo would not make the top 50. If it was about who could hit the ball hardest then he would not figure in the top 1,000. If it was about personality, there are not enough noughts available.

Instead, perhaps the answer lies in an insightful tale that Joyce Faldo, his mother, tells when her son was 13 and golf was the furthest thing from his mind.

"He was obsessed with cycling," she says. "He had two bicycles, one for road racing and one for the track, but he did not want to just ride them and improve his fitness. He wanted to know how the bikes worked as well. He would sit for hours in the garage, dismantling them and seeing how the parts fitted. Then he would put them back together again."

Eleven years ago, unhappy that he had not won a major championship, Faldo dismantled his golf swing. He threw out the bits that did not mesh perfectly and worked for two years on creating something that he could trust completely under pressure.

From 1987 to 1992 he dominated the game, winning five majors.

During the following two years he was less successful. It was time, once more, to dismantle, to refit. Faldo believed his problems lay with his putting. So he parted company from the European tour to rejoin the US tour, where the greens are invariably in better condition.

He is now, statistically, the best putter in the US and so mastered Augusta's notoriously difficult greens last month that he three-putted just once in 72 holes.

All this sounds perhaps just logical on paper but it involved enormous courage and sacrifice. Anyone who has simply tried to grip a golf club properly knows that the hands are being asked to do something for which they were not designed. To dismantle a swing that one had used for 12 years, and with which one had enjoyed the kind of success that would satisfy 99 per cent of golf professionals, emphasises that Faldo was born with considerable reserves of what Jack Nicklaus once referred to as "the deep sturr".

Yet that was just stage one. When he stopped winning in 1993 and 1994 Faldo left his wife and three young children in Britain, and the months apart while he worked on his putting in the US eventually led to a separation that will culminate in divorce.

What people rightly marvel at is how inspired he becomes when championships are at stake and the golf of everyone else becomes untidy. Five of his six important victories have come from being perfectly placed to take advantage when the player who had hitherto been leading crumbles under pressure.

Faldo believes he is so good in these situations because he knows every moving part of his swing. "The swing is everything," he says. "Because I know it will stand up to the heat of the moment I don't have to worry about it when I am playing a shot. I just have to concentrate on the task in hand and that gives me an enormous advantage mentally."

The most impressive shot Faldo played at Augusta came at the par five 13th on the final day. He had just seen Greg Norman fall apart, dropping six shots to par. Faldo had assumed a two stroke lead and the moment had come to take the initiative.

Yet the shot he had to the green was fraught with danger. He had 200 yards to go, with Rae's Creek awaiting any ball that fell fractionally short. If Faldo had gone into the water, the momentum would have been lost and Norman would have gained heart. Instead he played what he later described as the "crispest shot I hit all week".



The great names in golf have earned their reputations with shots like that one. Faldo now stands tied 11th on the all time list of majors won and he deserves his place among the game's legends for the odds are stacked heavily against any non-American golfer reaching such heights.

Unlike tennis, three of the four majors are always played in the US, and clearly the American who grows up playing on American courses,

which are so different to those found in Britain, begins with an advantage. With three Masters titles and three Opens, Faldo's ambition now is to win a first US Open, something he readily admits that has developed into an obsession.

Faldo has become more likeable as he has matured. After winning his first major, the 1987 Open, he forgot to mention the runner-up, Paul Azinger, in his speech, a

terrible discourtesy in a game where etiquette is paramount. Five years on, after his third Open victory, there did not appear much improvement. This time he did commiserate with the runner-up, but then went on to thank the press from the "heart of his bottom". All around the 18th green spectators sat in the excruciating silence that only a vulgar joke delivered in poor taste can produce.

But the US has improved

him and his jokes. At one press conference, on the eve of a long holiday, he said: "If anyone wants me over the next month they will have to ring 1-800-FISHING."

Then came his spontaneous gesture towards Norman at Augusta, when the pair embraced on the home green. It was a poignant and powerful moment, the day a great purveyor of his sport became a sportsman in the fullest sense of the word.

Rugby / Huw Richards

Two codes still a world apart

For some, last Wednesday's game between rugby union champions Bath, and Wigan, the rugby league champions - the 82-6 Wigan victory being entirely expected - might suggest that the two rival codes will eventually merge.

And Wigan's appearance today in the Middlesex Sevens at Twickenham might add to that impression. Indeed, it may happen.

But it is not quite as simple as that. A lot has changed in the last 101 years since the split over payments to players. To start with, league is not exclusively professional. As well as the 35 professional clubs, there are several hundred members of the British Amateur Rugby League Association's competitions.

And, even if the codes were the same up to 1885, they have diverged substantially since. League's decision to drop the line-out in 1897 was the start of a process of differentiation which has continued to this day. This is not surprising. In 1895 rugby was still in its early stages. It was only 24 years after the formation of the first union and the playing of the first rugby international.

Divergence has gathered pace over the last 80 years. In 1986 the absence of a specialist hooker was widely regarded as a significant factor in Wigan's heavy defeat by St Helens in the Rugby League Challenge Cup final. To play without such a specialist still spells disaster for a union team at any serious level.

Many explanations could be advanced for Bradford Northern's 40-38 defeat by St Helens in this year's final, but the choice of prop Bernard Dwyer as hooker was not among them.

That shift reflects the two games. League, forever innovating in search of a faster, spectator-friendly game, is a simplified stripped-down game developing a few basic skills - running, handling, tackling - to an extraordinary degree. Its players are versatile and to a great extent interchangeable, with moves between pack and backs common.

Union is complex and technical, with a wide range of specialisms - notably the ball-winning phases of scrum, line-out ruck and maul. Players, particularly forwards, are more specialised. The abbreviated games of union, played with seven a side, is probably closer to league. Anyone offered decent odds on Wigan for the Middlesex Sevens title today should take them.

Relations between the two codes have been unedifying. Union has mixed disdain with coercion and outright discrimination. Adrian Spencer was banned as recently as 18 months ago for playing unpaid with a professional league club. Yet union ignored blatant breaches in its own ranks and happily admitted players of other professional sports.

Sections of the league media and public have been prone to dismiss union with views to the effect that "they're a bunch

of pansies who can't tackle". There have also been attempts to prove statistically that league - where the ball is in play for twice as long as union - is the superior game.

This is proving unprovable. Union fans prefer union, league supporters prefer league. It could hardly be any other way. If Bath v Wigan helps insert fairness and sense into relations, that is fine. But it is not the same as unification.

Merging codes by combining rules is difficult. Australian Rules and Gaelic Football, closer in structure and without a century of enmity, failed in their attempt.

League might start taking scrummaging seriously. Union might wonder whether the line-out is more trouble than it is worth. And there is perhaps a case for it moving from 15 players to 18.

But all compromises stall on the tackle rule - the ball stays live in union and is dead in league. Hence union's potential for continuity, but also its risk-aversion. Much better to put the ball in touch than risk los-

'The hard-core fan is in much the same boat as the political party activist'

ing it. League's tendency is for a stop-start game, but its teams are also prepared to attack from any distance.

There is little evident support for unification among the hard-core supporters who keep the two games going. On the last occasion when Open Rugby, the league magazine, polled its readers, support for unification was in last deposit territory. The two separate games are liked for different reasons by their supporters. If they were not both still called rugby, it is hard to see why anyone would be talking of mergers. American Football is from the same roots and it also split off in the late 19th century. No one is suggesting that should re-merge.

But the economics of modern sport have placed the hard-core fan in the same boat as the political party activist - dis-trusted, despised, taken for granted and marginalised.

The sponsor, the casual TV watcher and, above all, TV money have a higher priority. Real fans will probably turn up anyway - and income from them has proved insufficient for either game's ambitions. Both are increasingly dependent on a drip-feed of television money.

It will not be long before some television chief, with no sense of either game or their histories but a sharp eye for the main chance, starts pushing for unification. If Wigan for the Middlesex Sevens looks a good bet, either set of authorities resisting the blandishments of television executives is a bad one.

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OUTDOORS

Everest Expedition / Richard Cowper

The final push for the summit begins

Richard Cowper reports from Everest Advanced Base Camp at 5,400 metres

Brian Blessed, the irrepressible actor and mountaineer, was due to set off in grand style early this morning for the North Col on his final push to the top of the world's highest mountain.

On his departure, Blessed's remarks showed his usual flair for the heroic: "As the great mountaineer Reinhold Messner said - 'we are going to voyage up there on a knife-edge. But we mountaineers do not have a death wish, we have a life wish.'"

Everest, however, is no longer the domain of a highly accomplished elite band of mountaineers such as Messner, but is rapidly becoming the playground of the western world.

Blessed himself is part of that vanguard. Accompanied by his entourage of personal guide, television director, two high-altitude cameramen and four experienced sherpas from Nepal, the bearded 59-year-old star of *Z Cars* and *Str Galahad*

of Everest, is likely to find his route to the top of Everest more a matter of painful endurance than mountaineering heroics or great climbing talent.

In the last few days, more than 50 sherpas - several of whom have already climbed to Everest's summit more than once - and scores of climbers from more than a dozen expeditions have trodden a well-worn, if exhausting, route

to just below the 8,848-metre summit. Even more significantly, sherpas from the Japanese, Indian and Norwegian expeditions have fixed permanent ropes on to the rock and snow virtually all the way to the top, allowing Blessed and his companions to clip on at Advanced Base Camp (ABC) and follow the line in safety as high as their hearts and legs will carry them.

A few acerbic members of the actor's expedition, organised by Himalayan Kingdoms of Sheffield, jokingly referred to themselves as "the British North Ridge Parasites Expedition" as they have lazily acclimatised in comparative splendour down at base camp while other nationalities have done much of the hard work on the mountain.

Blessed's sherpas have, however, worked hard to make a hazardous venture as safe as possible. They have set up a series of pre-stocked camps on the mountain in an attempt to minimise the effort for the actor and his sahibs now the final summit push is under way.

Most important of all, however, the 15-stone romantic, who identifies closely with George Leigh Mallory, the famous British mountaineer who disappeared on Everest in mysterious circumstances in 1924, has agreed to use oxygen. Like Mallory, Blessed believed until recently that only "rotters" would be so un sporting as to use this artificial aid.

An unusually contrite Blessed said: "The pressures on me to get to the top are enormous - from film makers, to sponsors, to friends and to hospitals. I don't like using oxygen. I don't want to use it.

But I accept I won't get to the summit without it. So I'm going to be a good boy."

So, too, will most of the 200 or so other climbers planning to tackle the same route to the top of Everest over the next few days.

Unfortunately, my day of high altitude sickness may prevent me from getting much above 7,000 metres on my summit push next week now that I am back on the mountain after three days' rest in Kathmandu.

The expedition has been made possible by Himalayan Kingdoms Expeditions, North Face, B&B, Lufthansa and Berghaus.

Gardening / Robin Lane Fox

Women in the garden

Like gardens, the ranks of gardeners are regenerating themselves, the process on which the entire art depends. The next few weeks should bring in a good crop of converts.

Azalea and magnolia gardens are still at their best, thanks to the late spring. Chelsea flower show looms, where the crowds are no longer such a deterrent, thanks to the streaming of visitors and the considerable rises in the price of a ticket.

All around us, nature is growing furiously and there is a temptation to join what you cannot beat and try to become the gardener that your parents never were.

Gardening has appealed to almost every human type, but there is still a strong belief that it appeals especially to women. The gender factor faces new constraints. In the old days, gardening was an area in which male and female could be active on equal terms.

There was a feeling that the garden could be left as the woman's concern, an alternative to the kitchen or the children. It was never true that women were better gardeners or history's main gardeners: Eve has continued to have many helmses. But the divisions of domestic life did leave the garden open to feminine art and it is here that the new converts might like to pause, think and take encouragement.

Nowadays, she goes to work too, but digging and weeding are not within the scope of an *au pair's* contract. I have yet to meet a horticultural nanny, so keen that she weeds her employers' flowerbeds just for the fun of it.

Will the tradition of feminine interest survive the change in female circumstance? I see every sign that it will, because gardening has an appeal which does not depend on the imbalance in old gender roles. In my experience, it is gender neutral. Women and men are

equally likely to be good at it and their taste for it goes beyond a particular balance of genes or social roles.

Nonetheless, it is fascinating what each sex says, on occasion, about the other. I have listened to scrub-stained older women in fungarees, telling me that gardening is women's work because they intuitively know how to handle the world of herbs. I was also told, only last year by one of our greatest living male gardening writers, that women are never really good gardeners because they cannot see the broader picture. They plan and plant in fussy, unrelated detail.

These stereotypes are marvellously illuminating about their proponents, not about the subject. I really could not define a female style in the garden and I would never agree that it is fundamentally a female art. I would, however, agree that women have written some of the best things about it. So have men, but each side should remember the other.

In this spirit, I would like to direct potential converts and arthritic enthusiasts to a magnificent collection of female writing on the subject. Gardening anthologies are not often a thoroughgoing garden of flowers, but Deborah Kellaway has put together a classic which is the perfect companion for the new season. *The Virago Book of Women Gardeners* (Virago, £7.99) has already been read on Radio 4 and ought to tip the scales for anyone who is wondering if gardening is the pursuit for their future lives. Men will enjoy it as much as women.

We all like to find fore-runners in things which we have found for ourselves that we enjoy. If we find them early enough they become companions and inspirations, if only to do the opposite from what they suggest.

Deborah Kellaway has found so many kindred comments from the past 200 years that my own ideas of garden progress have been turned on their head. Of course there are the expected voices, Vita Sackville West or Marion Cran. But there are dozens of others which encourage or reassure.

The older authors are excellent advisers about time. "It is possible within 20 years, to cre-



'July Sunlight, Rosalind in the Garden at Kings Avenue,' by Douglas Starinus Gray (1890-1959)

ate a reasonably presentable garden, losing that look of newness, which we associate with the narrow orange labels of nurserymen, fluttering from the wrist-slender stems of young trees." How few of us remember nowadays that the process is slow and cannot be curtailed.

There are excellent comments throughout this anthology about the ways in which one idea leads on to another. In 1903, Mrs Ely was already telling her American readers to start with the advice of a good landscape gardener, "but do not follow it, at least not at once, nor all at one time. Live there for a while, until you yourself begin to feel what you want and where you want it."

From unexpected sources, surprising historical echoes re-emerge. In 1924, we learn that: "In America 'ghost' gardens are rather the fashion. Here everything is dim and subdued, including only plantings of white flowers and silver leaves." The great White Garden at England's Sissinghurst was still 20 years in the future.

The great Miss Havergal condemns the regimented plant-

ings of Oxford college gardens in words which could still be circulated around most common rooms. In 1915, Mrs King concludes: "I have come to see quite plainly through several years of lost time that balanced planting throughout is the only planting for a garden that has any design worthy of the name."

Idiosyncrasies and curious advice run throughout the collection. In 1927, Lady Saxon was recommending "a loose jumper made of khaki or brown flannel" as part of the ideal outfit. In the 1960s, the spirited Xenia Field spoke up for picturing flower relationships as a better cure for insomnia than counting sheep. "Conjure up a window-box of flowers immaculate in growth and bloom, in brilliant patterns."

Sylvia Plath is predictably fulsome about beekeeping, but Anna Merritt is wonderfully good on a day's weeding as therapy in 1908: "After such a day my fingers are bleeding, but I have attained the most profound inward peace and blessed belief of having uprooted all my enemies."

Rabbits keep popping out from their burrows. In 1843, Louisa Johnson believed that

they would not walk on straw or jump any piece of string wrapped round a plant. In 1992, Germaine Greer tells us all to kill one and rightly wonders why there is so much fuss about hunting when rabbits and foxes are such pests.

From time to time, female-speak intrudes. Ms Jekyll's garden is "singing hymns of praise and thankfulness". There is some wonderful gush about wild flowers and there are just enough entries which try to be poetic to keep us amused among the practicalities.

Will the next generation of gardening women have time to leave such a variety of advice and insight in print?

Perhaps they will combine it with the double lives of work and motherhood, perhaps a minority will discover that there is not much point in working for money any longer and will turn to the garden as an outlet. The split between the sexes is not inherently active in gardening style and practice. We can enjoy it, in this new season, in an anthology for all our bedtimes, while wondering how the same themes will play themselves out in the changed pattern of the next 30 years.

Motoring / Stuart Marshall

New models and ruffled feathers

You can probably imagine how two women might react if they arrived at a smart wedding wearing dresses that were not identical but uncomfortably close to it. In which case, you will understand perfectly why there seems to be a slight frisson of annoyance, a ruffling of feathers, between Citroën and Peugeot over the launch of their latest small cars.

Citroën speaks of the Saxo, which will eventually replace its first proper supermini, the AX as a new model. For Peugeot the latest 106 - from which the Saxo differs only in detail - is no more than a substantially facelifted, improved and lengthened version of a four-year-old car.

Peugeot merged with Citroën several years ago to form the PSA Group. Citroën, the junior but by inclination more innovative partner, takes it amiss if its new Saxo is described as a badge-engineered Peugeot. And Peugeot is miffed because, at any rate in Britain, Saxos are likely to undercut their 106 counterparts by a few pounds as they fight for sales in the car market's most competitive sector.

Car buyers are well aware that since the 1980s all Citroën and Peugeot cars have shared major components such as engines and transmissions, although the sophisticated gas/hydraulic, self-leveling suspension of Xantia and XM remains a Citroën exclusive. Until now, PSA Group cars with the same vital parts have looked very different. For instance, no one would confuse a Citroën ZX with a Peugeot 306, although under their metal skins there is little of significance to set them apart.

Will the next generation of gardening women have time to leave such a variety of advice and insight in print? Perhaps they will combine it with the double lives of work and motherhood, perhaps a minority will discover that there is not much point in working for money any longer and will turn to the garden as an outlet. The split between the sexes is not inherently active in gardening style and practice. We can enjoy it, in this new season, in an anthology for all our bedtimes, while wondering how the same themes will play themselves out in the changed pattern of the next 30 years.

But sideways on, I reckon that only their creators will be able to tell a Saxo from a 106. From front and rear, though, you know which side of the family they have come from. The 106 looks remarkably like its larger brother, the 306. In the Saxo, I thought I could detect slight styling overtones of both ZX and Xantia.

The interior trims are different but whether you buy Citroën or Peugeot, you get the same mechanicals. When Saxo goes on sale in Britain next week, there will be only one body, a three-door; a choice of

two petrol engines (1.1-litre, 60 horsepower and 1.4-litre, 75 horsepower); and three trim levels - LX, SX and VSX. Two weeks later Peugeot dealers will start selling new 106s with three-door and five-door bodies, 1.1-litre and 1.4-litre petrol and 1.5-litre diesel engines.

Later in the year the five-doors and diesels will join the Saxo range and both 106 and Saxo will be available as 1.6-litre petrol-engined automatics. There will be sporty versions, too, the most muscular with a 120 horsepower, 16-valve, 1.6-litre engine.

Only the cheapest entry model 106 will lack power-assisted steering, which will be a £375 extra on both 1.1-litre and 1.4-litre Saxos. It will not be available until early

autumn. However, the manual steering of the Saxos I drove last week - mainly on country roads and motorways - was surprisingly light and I thought at first it might have been power steered.

Safety and security items such as four-digit key-pad engine immobilisers, driver's airbag and pre-tensioned seatbelts are common to both marques. Anti-lock brakes (£585 extra on the Saxo) and passenger airbag (£190) will also be available on the 106.

As I have not yet driven any 106s, I can make no performance comparisons, although I doubt if there are any. Both the 1.1-litre and 1.4-litre Saxos rode and handled as comfortably and competently as any obvious rivals, which are listed by Citroën and Peugeot alike as the Ford Fiesta, Vauxhall (Opel) Corsa, Renault Clio and VW Polo. Pointedly, Citroën makes no reference to the 106, nor does Peugeot to the Saxo.

The Saxos felt more like medium-sized cars than superminis until it was time to park, when they slipped more easily into tight spaces. The 1.1-litre engine was, I thought, sweeter than the 1.4-litre and just as willing to sustain business motorists' cruising speeds on the motorway.

The yielding seats of the basic £7,350 1.1i LX appealed to me more than the firmer ones in the dearest £9,390 1.4i VSX. If you can do without electric windows, central locking and power-adjusted mirrors, the 1.1i LX looks the best value.

Fuel consumptions of the 1.1-litre and 1.4-litre Saxos in average use should be around 42 and 41mpg (6.73 and 6.9 l/100km) respectively. The diesel version will better this with 53mpg (5.33 l/100km).

The Citroën Saxo: the 1.1i LX pictured here looks the best value



The Citroën Saxo: the 1.1i LX pictured here looks the best value

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BOOKS

Who wants to be a billionaire?

No one would after reading these two biographies, writes Paul Betts

These are the stories of two very rich Americans - so rich one was called the richest man and the other the richest woman in the US - and they make for very depressing reading.

They shouldn't. Both seemed to have everything, and more. Good looks, brains, fame, power, mighty sexual appetites (he seduced more Hollywood film stars than Don Giovanni's *mile per*, she bedded General Patton, Errol Flynn and the notorious playboy Porfirio Rubirosa), and they both inherited barrels of money which they multiplied by their own business acumen.

He flew around the world when



Doris Duke: miserable old age

flying was still in its pioneering days, launched Jean Harlow and countless other sex goddesses, owned for a time most of Las Vegas, built aircraft and created one of the world's biggest airlines, became the first individual to own a Hollywood studio while being the largest supplier of electronic warfare systems to the Pentagon.

Her achievements were not of the same dizzy scale. She nevertheless built up one of the world's most profitable art collections, owned more US treasury bonds than any single other private investor, turned orchid growing into big business, was a spy in Italy during the second world war and worked for a while as a foreign correspondent.

No, these are not new books on James Bond and Mata Hari, but two new biographies on Howard Hughes, the secretive and eccentric billionaire, and Doris Duke, the

daughter of America's biggest tobacco mogul. And both tell the same old story that all the money in the world cannot buy happiness.

Howard Hughes and Doris Duke had miserable childhoods - Hughes loved by an over-possessive mother who kept him closeted from the real world and provoked his later obsession about germs; Duke disliked by a socially ambitious mother who kept her secluded in a New York Fifth Avenue mansion.

In spite of all their adventures and exploits - both in the bedroom and in the boardroom - they apparently never achieved fulfilment in their adult lives. Their old age was equally wretched, with similar patterns of drug abuse and neglect by associates and servants all too keen to get their hands on the financial empires of their respective masters. The epilogues to their stories are just as awful with years of litigation and bitter fighting over wills and billions of dollars of assets.

HOWARD HUGHES: THE UNTOLD STORY
by Peter Harry Brown and Pat H. Broeske
Little, Brown £20, 462 pages

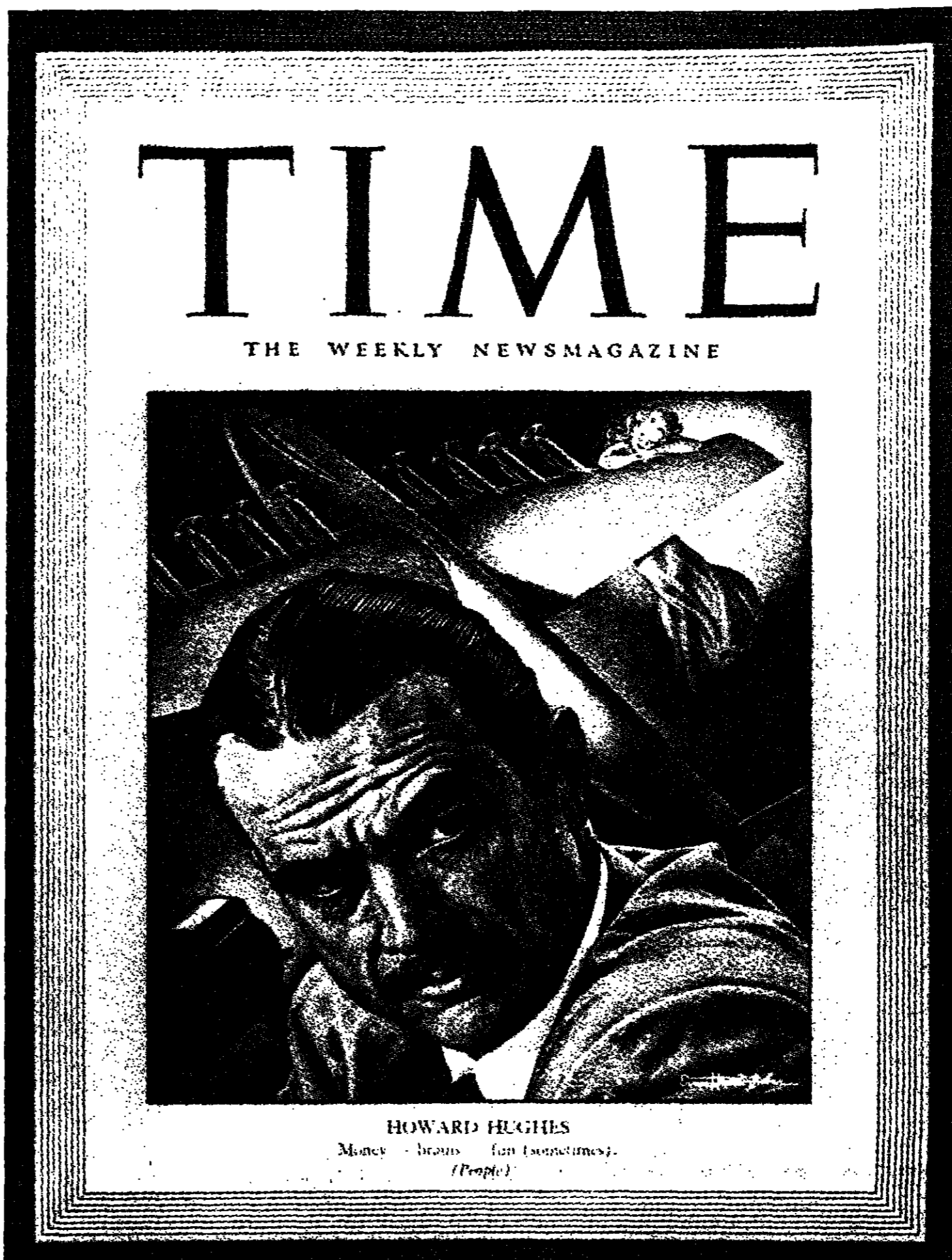
TOO RICH - THE FAMILY SECRETS OF DORIS DUKE
by Pony Duke and Jason Thomas
HarperCollins £16, 271 pages

The latest Howard Hughes biography by a duo of American journalists is an exhaustive book based on recently unsealed court documents and interviews with more than 600 people close to the billionaire. It argues that Hughes was not, as many have suggested, mad, but suffered from an illness unknown at the time called OCD - obsessive-compulsive disorder.

One UCLA professor called him "the most famous obsessive-compulsive in modern history." With proper medication he could have been cured. He was beset by a chemical imbalance in the brain, probably inherited from his equally obsessive-compulsive mother.

There seem to have been no chemical imbalances with Doris Duke, although her upbringing, like Hughes', must have caused scores of other life-lasting imbalances. But then, both Hughes and Duke, lived in different worlds - a planet where all excesses were possible, a bacchanalia of money, lust, power and instant gratification. In short, the world of carpetbaggers.

The two biographies devote a lot of attention to the sexual exploits of



TIME

THE WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE



HOWARD HUGHES

Money - brains - fun (sometimes).
(People)

Howard Hughes: his biography confirms the old story that money can't buy happiness

their glamorous subjects. It makes for some entertaining and racy tabloid reading. Hughes seems to have had every good looking girl in Hollywood: Ava Gardner, Rita Hayworth, Katharine Hepburn, Bette Davis, Lana Turner, Ginger Rogers, to name a handful.

Maybe there is a deeper point in all this. Doris Duke believed the very rich and the very poor often have the same attitude to sex. The very rich can buy almost everything except a climax; the very poor have nothing so when they experience great sex it is wonderful. So

being poor or being rich provides the freedom for sexual indulgence that usually escapes the middle classes, worried about jobs, mortgages and school fees.

Hughes and Duke also suffered the normal cycle of human disappointment and passions ranging

from unrequited love to professional setbacks (Hughes ended up losing his beloved airline TWA). Somehow, however, it is difficult to feel great sympathy for these two tragic figures. As the milkman once said: it is better to be rich and miserable than poor and miserable.

Fiction

An idea too big for its plot

Frederica was the strong-willed and intelligent young heroine of two earlier novels by Byatt, *The Virgin in the Garden* and *Still Life*. In *Babel Tower*, she follows Frederica's escape from a violent husband and a menacing household under his rule into the confusion of urban society in the sixties.

Groups and the power of language are Byatt's chief preoccupations here. In the story of *Babel Tower*, a novel-within-the-novel which licenses Byatt's pleasure in using diverse styles and plots, she shows the danger to a medieval commune when it falls under the power of a single obsessive mind. In London, Frederica is drawn into the idealistic group of a city art-school which seeks to reject past values as it establishes a new creed. In a London crypt, Frederica's brother-in-law expiates his private griefs by dealing with the lost group of society's outcasts, one of whom reappears as the mysterious, messianic author of *Babel Tower*.

BABEL TOWER
by A.S. Byatt
Chatto & Windus £16.99, 617 pages

HEATWAVE
by Penelope Lively
Viking £16, 224 pages

Frederica's academic skills lead her into another group which is intent on protecting the young by revising the forms of language they may use. Each group is shown to have a rotten centre; Byatt's sympathies appear to be with Frederica, who seeks to maintain a distance from them.

A less compelling and approachable novel than *Possession*, *Babel Tower* is more ambitious in its scale and themes. Byatt's range of literary reference is commanding, but ideas seem, on this occasion, to have overwhelmed both the characters and the plot. In her most recent book, a fascinating series of interviews on the subject of characters in six classic novels, she was at her best, discussing the ways in which Amis, Eliot and Murdoch, among others, establish the reader's interest in their characters and how they are brought to life.

Several of those novels are referred to here, for *Babel Tower* is, in its different way, as intensely literary in its concerns as was *Possession*. How baffling, then, and how disappointing to find that Byatt's enormous cast of characters are, almost without exception, lacking in the essential ability to hold our interest and sympathy. The ideas are, simply, too big for the multi-threaded narrative to contain.

Read the novel, then, not for emotional pleasure or for the twists and reverses which made *Possession* such a delight to read, but for the way in which, like an artful octopus, the book spreads its tentacles over a decade, sharpening our memory of its finer moments of madness - the Chatterley trial and the Profumo scandal. She also evokes the burning of books which refer back to the novel's central and disturbing image of a tower of learning which falls to destruction.

In *Heat Wave*, Penelope Lively sketches a smaller canvas with the subtlety and sharp observation which is the hallmark of her work. The story, set at World's End cottage over a single burning summer in the Oxfordshire countryside, is of the breakdown of a marriage. Pauline, the narrator, has painful memories of her own promiscuous husband; now, helplessly, she watches her proud, quiet daughter suffering the same fate.

Lively's characters play out their unhappy drama against a background of the kind at which the author excels. Few novelists can compete with her in acuteness of vision and a language which is both deft and precise. A pretty tourist village is trapped in "a vice of ringroads" shopping centres beckon the consumer to "a glittering Savannah of car parks" a field of celled hay bales seems filled with giant cotton reels by day. At night, in keeping with increasingly sinister developments in the human story, the bales become "strange monolithic presences, a sculptural army gathered upon the slope of the hill, staring down at World's End with blank faces."

This skilful interplay between characters and the world they inhabit is the consistent virtue of Lively's work. *Heat Wave*, taut, thoughtful and compassionate, can stand with the best of it.

Miranda Seymour

Value of studying an icon

This author has not made the most of his material, argues Samuel Brittan

At a private Conservative gathering, a speaker, who had advocated a pragmatic middle-of-the-road stance, was interrupted by the new party leader Margaret Thatcher. She took out a book from her briefcase, held it up for all to see and then banged it down on the table, saying sternly "This is what we believe." The book was Friedrich Hayek's *The Constitution of Liberty* by the Austrian-born political economist who became a British subject and who died in 1992.

There is a delicious irony that a book advocating individual diversity and spontaneous order should be imposed in such an authoritarian fashion - if this is really what happened. For I have yet to see this incident described from a source sympathetic to the former Conservative leader.

Andrew Gamble, who is a left-of-centre professor of politics at Sheffield, became interested in Hayek as a result of his work on some of the contradictions of the Thatcher variety of Conservatism. It is to his credit that he realised that Hayek was much more than a propagandist and that he had a message for people who were far from Conservative in political persuasion.

Hayek did not provide a consistent political philosophy (who has?)

For he embraced at least two different outlooks:

1. *Classical liberalism*, in the old English sense, with a strong emphasis on the rule of law, competitive private enterprise and limited government.
2. *Burkean conservatism*, with its emphasis on the superior wisdom of institutions which have developed with time. This strongly condemns the rationalist view that society can be redesigned from scratch by a central reforming drive.

Occasionally these different approaches, as in the nostalgic view of Gladstonian England, may point in a similar direction. But very often they conflict. In the old USSR, dictatorship and state control embodied the traditional wisdom; and the proponents of free elections or free markets could be accused of just that kind of constructivist rationalism with which Hayek charged radicals in the west who can be perceived by eye and mind. Forget cleverness. Raine's beliefs about the diversity of life and world, the multiplicity of names and things, and the inventiveness of how they can be perceived by eye and mind. Forget cleverness. Raine's beliefs about the diversity of life and world, the multiplicity of names and things, and the inventiveness of how they can be perceived by eye and mind.

Without providing a complete system, Hayek nevertheless left us some most important key ideas - which he did not claim to have orig-

inated but which he helped to revive and develop.

The first is the idea of the market - not as a device for the optimal allocation of known resources by known techniques to serve known wants, as mainstream economists lapse into supporting - but as a dis-

HAYEK - THE IRON CAGE OF LIBERTY
by Andrew Gamble
Polity Press £15, 240 pages

covery mechanism which can utilise the dispersed knowledge of millions of widely scattered individuals and groups. The market is a social device, like language and law, which has gradually evolved and not been consciously invented. No kind of computer could hope to have the tacit knowledge - knowing how rather than knowing that - which a functioning market can provide. Nor can it predict the emergence of new knowledge, innovations, or people's reactions.

Gamble puts his hopes in some

form of market socialism, which can be compatible with this decentralised mechanism. Unfortunately, however, market signals are of limited value unless there is some reward for following them. That is why the abolition of central planning and price control has not proved sufficient in the former Communist countries without privatisation to make them effective.

Hayek's second main legacy is the importance of a government of laws rather than of men and women in protecting both freedom and efficiency. This was the aim of the Founding Fathers of the US Constitution and was revived by Hayek as the key to a revived constitutional liberalism.

Gamble explains this side of Hayek, but somehow he does not give it sufficient emphasis. This is rather surprising. For here is the aspect of Hayekian thinking which Conservative politicians - Thatcherite as well as corporatist - most certainly reject. When ministers "decide" to finance ventures like the Pergau Dam they are substitut-

ing their own discretion for rules, procedures and conventions - and indulging in pretty bad economics as well.

There are other Hayekian themes to which Gamble might have had more sympathy without crossing the ideological floor. Hayek regarded majority voting as merely a convenient decision rule and was concerned to put limits on powers of a "temporary majority". There is no divine right of a majority, still less a plurality, to impose its will of life when his ideas became fashionable at least in some circles and he became an icon. But icons are not often studied in detail. Most of the Conservatives who praised Hayek not only failed to follow his principles: they were not even aware of what they were. He was simply an intellectual stick with which to beat their opponents. How many knew or know that he was not merely a theoretical federalist, but actively tried to promote the cause at a European level at the Mont Pelerin society he started after the second world war?

Gamble makes a strategic mistake in devoting most of his space

Poetry/Douglas Dunn

Sorrow and cerebral celebrations

CLAY, WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN
by Craig Raine
Penguin £7.99, 64 pages

Sudden insights is probably better off in a tightly measured free verse than in metrical arrangements.

Cerebral energy, at times close even to egotism, constantly re-examines the pain of sorrowful poems as "Sheol" (spoken by a victim of the dreadful Mengele), or "Limbo", a prayer for someone's after-life which includes startling statements about illness. There is a lot of well-examined elegy and intimacy in his poetry ("For Hans

Keller", for instance), or the compassionate observation of sorrow, as in "Change", where the simplicity of Raine's manner of writing discloses a tender awareness of human hurt but excludes either under- or overstatement.

His celebratory verve is balanced to the point of sentient perfection by an ongoing contest with the grimmer realities of life - "a bedstead, sleeping rough, / like dead beloved bodies everywhere".

Indeed, that is what the book is about - a distribution of sorrow at the loss of friends and relatives while at the same time trying to protect what he calls "sustained wonder at the world - its limitless, offhand beauties, its mysteries

and its bleak brevities". It could be for that reason that *Clay, Whereabouts Unknown* is less viscous with figurative inventiveness than much of his earlier work.

Raine is not the only writer who possesses and practises a high degree of intellectual control over the sore subject. In prose several writers come to mind, for example Martin Amis (especially in *Time's Arrow*), or Ian McEwan, Julian Barnes, A. S. Byatt; and in poetry Paul Muldoon, Simon Armitage and Christopher Reid. It could be that "cleverness" in contemporary writing stands in need of critical investigation. There may not be enough of it, but there is rather a lot of it around.



Craig Raine: his writing discloses a tender awareness of human hurt

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.

BOOKS

Prepare to be transported

Cyborgs are cool, and the time is near when all limits will be gone, writes Michael Thompson-Noel

Had any good cybersex lately? Boosted your brain power with smart drugs and sought entranced enlightenment in the company of turned-on techno-hippy friends? Adorned yourself with cybernetic body art? Joined the cyborg bandwagon?

Cyborgs are really cool, man. They believe that the human body and brain are almost obsolete, and that the time is coming when we can download ourselves into computer memory, transforming ourselves from organic to inorganic, flesh to unflesh - *homo sapiens* to *homo cyber*.

Perhaps you have done none of those things. Perhaps you are still into necroculture - Paul Cézanne, Jane Austen, all those dead Greeks. If so, what you need to do is turn on, boot up, jack in, break free - to prepare yourself for a post-biological universe unbounded by limits of any sort, metaphysical as well as merely physical.

Not that we are there yet. There is still a little way to go. But we are approaching escape velocity, or so it is maintained. Hence the title of

this book, escape velocity being the speed at which a body such as a spacecraft, overcomes the gravitational pull of another body, such as a planet.

"More and more," writes Mark Dery, "computer culture, or cyberculture, seems as if it is on the verge of attaining escape velocity." In short, the electronic media seem to be spinning us into the bitved, breathless world of what Marshall McLuhan in 1967 called "allotoneousness", where information pours upon us, instantaneously and continuously.

Dery, an American, is a critic of culture, especially fringe culture and new media, who sets his stall out stylishly. Cyberculture, he says, is starting to flower now that the information age has wrenched us out of the era of factory capitalism and into the post-industrial epoch of transnational corporate capitalism.

Manufacturing, it is said, is undergoing what Buckminster Fuller called the "ophthalmisation of work" - the replacement of actual workers and widgets by the manipulation, on computers, of symbols that make up an information economy trading in near-intangibles - Hollywood movies, TV programmes, high-tech games and theme parks, one-minute megatrends, stock market data, trillion-dollar financial manoeuvres.

"We are moving," writes Dery, "at dizzying speed, from a reassuringly solid age of hardware into a disconcertingly wraithlike age of software, in which circuitry too small to see and code too complex to fully comprehend controls more and more of the world around us."

Increasingly, he says, the musings of scientists, science fiction writers and futurologists are becoming infected with turn-of-the-mil-

lennium mysticism. Physicist Frank J. Tipler has even reconciled physics with metaphysics by positing an Omega Point (the term is borrowed from French theologian Pierre Teilhard de Chardin). The Omega Point, a creature that had ever lived.

However, as Dery reminds us, the stories we tell ourselves about the future are an attempt to invest our sad lives with drama and meaning that transcend the decay and death which are everywhere around us. Indeed, placing our faith in an end-of-the-century *deus ex machina* that will help us escape the need to confront the problems - social, economic, environmental - clamouring for solutions is a "risky endgame", says Dery.

But *Escape Velocity* is not about endgames. It is (mostly) about the here and now, and is an absorbing guide to the new computer counter-culture apparently rushing at us.

It tells us more than we need to know about techno-hippies, technopagans, mind machines, consciousness technologies, zippies, Nietzschean superstars, cyber-rockers, cyber-punks, cyber-body artists,

text sex, robo-bimbos, *coitus artificialis*, *avant-garde* surgery, nonlinear carbon thinking (as opposed to squared-off, logical silicon thinking), machismo vs machinismo, biomechanical tattoos and the fifth priggish level of complexity.

There is a lot of sex in *Escape Velocity*, although cybersex doesn't seem to have got very far yet. Diligence, for example, is not really into its stride, while full-blown tele-dildos - which sounds thrilling, but will require a global fibre optic communications network working in concert with massively parallel supercomputers - is, sad to tell, regarded as an early- to mid-21st century technology at best.

Still, things are warming up, and Dery - no prude - assures us that cybersex will grow exponentially stranger as virtual reality technology develops. On the other hand, there is likely to be much work for

the lawyers if we do not get what we have paid for. For example, when showering after online, virtual reality frolicking with a named and advertised celebrity - Cleopatra? Casanova? Marilyn Monroe? - how will we be certain that we have not been fobbed off with sex with an artificial intelligence descended from a grandmaster-level chess program? Very tricky.

All in all, Dery has produced an enthralling description of the new computer cultures, fringes and otherwise, that will soon be on offer. But there are two problems with *Escape Velocity*. First, it is too dense. His publisher should have stamped on a lot of the cleverness and cut it by 100 pages.

Second, the book is probably about 10 years premature. It is subtitled *Cyberculture at the end of the century*. Yet many of the things Dery describes have yet to happen. In 10 years' time, however, he will be able to update it.

In 2006, a book by Mark Dery about cyberculture at the start of the 21st century would be something to prize, whatever its price in e-cu.

ESCAPE VELOCITY by Mark Dery

Hodder & Stoughton £16.99, 376 pages

thinks Tipler, will be a point of infinite density and temperature towards which the universe will collapse in a reverse Big Bang which aficionados call the Big Crunch.

The energy generated by this implosion, Tipler theorises, could be used by a godlike intelligence to drive a cosmic simulator (think of *Star Trek: The Next Generation's* Holodeck) with so much processing power at its disposal that it could bring back to (virtual) life every

The insider as an outsider

Jackie Wullschlager enjoys the insights of a very eminent career



The pioneer of creative conservation: garden designer Gertrude Jelby, with spade, is pictured with her family at Munstead Heath in Jane Brown's book "Lutyens and the Edwardians: an architect and his clients" (Viking £25, 278 pages), which examines Edwin Lutyens' partnership with Jelby

In wartime ledgers noting a sailor's pay, the initials NE stood for "not entitled", used when so many fines were deducted from a man's wages that he got nothing at all. In these cases, a sailor would stare in dismay at the empty cap which should have contained his pay, then replace it on his head, salute, about-turn and complain to his comrades that "he'd got a f***ing northeaster" - vernacular decoding of the dreaded NE.

"Sometimes," says Kermode, "simply to be in the navy was to be in a f***ing northeaster that never stopped blowing. Sometimes... to be alive at all was to have been born in the teeth of such a gale."

This is one of the most beautiful autobiographies I have read. Frank Kermode is a titled and eminent literary critic, but the sense of being not entitled is burnt into his vision and stamps each of the three disparate sections of this book with a precise, ironic individuality.

Growing up on the Isle of Man, he perceives that his class is entitled to neither material comfort nor intellectual curiosity. In the navy, recruits are not entitled to expect to live - when Kermode learns the violin, his sailor-teacher is killed, bow and chin-pad are sent to his widow, and "I was no more entitled to the virtuosity I yearned for than he was to live beyond the age of 26, or than she was to her husband".

He survives, becomes a writer, but is always surprised to have a job, and feels in charge of his life "in the way drunken drivers feel in charge of their vehicles".

His story is the classic, mid-century English one - now, alas, no longer possible - of the poor, clever grammar school boy made good. His first job was to sell newspapers on the Steam Packet Company ships sailing from Douglas to Liverpool, and his last was professor of English at Cambridge, accepted against his better judgment because "some miniature version of the log-cabin-to-White-House

myth was working in me". Every nuance, therefore, is a comment on social history. At the home of his first middle-class friend, Kermode toys with his asparagus. "I wouldn't have guessed that in England it is finger food; and when strawberries appeared I refused sugar, not because [at that time] I liked them without, but because after the strain of the asparagus I had simply run out of courage, and did not trust myself with the shaker".

Playing bridge from the Clyde to Reykjavik in a Polish troopship in 1941, he evokes his captain in the space of a trick: "It was as if playing the cards suited his idea of cunning, his power to divine weakness in an enemy's professions, whereas he was

NOT ENTITLED: A MEMOIR by Frank Kermode

HarperCollins £18, 263 pages

content to leave the sissy business of bidding and making valuable contracts to the uselessly educated middle classes."

No one since Evelyn Waugh has written more hilariously of the absurdity of war. On a ship which was supposed - but failed - to lay an anti-submarine boom off Iceland, Kermode languished for years. Captains died by the week - one poisoned himself (from a diet of lambs tongues and pink gin, exclusively), another shot his brains out, a third fell down the stairs.

Their bridge-playing successor was an illiterate brute who came to depend on Kermode to write his letters, but repaid him by never learning his name ("What the hell are you, Cosmos? A f***ing poof-ter?"). He nearly sank his own ship ("Well, Comodly, it seems we've f***ing 'ad it"; the only time Kermode saw action was when his colleagues mistakenly shot down a Canadian plane.

"*Tout le reste*," says Kermode after Verlaine, "est littérature." Allusions glitter in his text - Tristram Shandy's image of sleeping diagonally across his bed informs

us of his single state, for instance - but barely a book is mentioned, not a name dropped, and Kermode continues to play the comic naïf. At Reading, he arrives late for an interview, finds the college closed, climbs through a window of a dark room to send its naked occupant shrieking out of the door.

As editor of *Encounter*, he is duped about the magazine's CIA connections and sued for libel. At Cambridge, he breaks about the political scandal about the structuralist lecturer McCabe, wakes one morning and simply resigns.

Recollections by the eminent which reveal doubt and mismanagement have an obvious, human appeal. Kermode talks ruefully about "the good writing that cannot help eliminating truth from autobiography. It tempers the prevailing northeaster of time", but what makes *Not Entitled* so magical is exactly its combination of painful honesty with exquisite prose and crystalline wit. It is as if Kermode refuses even to take words for granted, but measures, modulates, refines them, no sentence entitled to be read without working for its life.

What emerges is an insider who always felt an outsider: a famous scholar who always nursed a kernel of depression; a sociable man who was yet too solitary to make marriage work; "I return alone to this page, anxious about very little, sad to extremity, aimlessly dissolute." His genius is to offer such characteristics as personal failings while conveying them in terms which make us see that they are common human ones - that they belong to ourselves.

Good autobiography fixes the cast of an interesting mind candidly enough to illuminate by analogy our own lives. Kermode has an old-world courtesy, a reticence about sex and a dignity over past battles that make this book almost anachronistic, yet it sums up more than any modern kiss'n'tell memoir, "the private weather, unpredictable as dreams yet recognisable as a climate", of an individual life.

From Napoleon to Bosnia

Milton Shulman on the changing face of war

When I interrogated German officers including Field Marshal von Rundstedt, Colonel General Kurt Student and Colonel General Sepp Dietrich in 1945, they united in blaming their defeat upon Hitler and primarily on the superior numbers of Allied planes, ships, tanks, rockets and artillery.

Was it not foolhardy, I asked, to declare war against an industrial giant like the US? They shrugged their shoulders and blamed Nazi leaders such as Goering who had declared that Americans could not make planes, only refrigerators and razor blades.

In his impressive book, *The Pursuit of Victory*, Professor Brian Bond takes us from Napoleon to the Gulf War to demonstrate his thesis that military ability alone may win battles but not wars: "Fundamentally the victory of the North in the American Civil War," he writes "was due not so much to the operational skills of its generals but more to its capacity to mobilise such industrial and manpower superiority as to render the South's operational advantages almost irrelevant."

Although that war has been recognised as the first modern war, Hitler and his generals were obviously ignorant of its lessons since they arrogantly

assumed that their genius alone could overcome the combined resources of men and weapons of the US, Britain and Russia.

Hitler himself had clearly not read enough military history to know that one of Napoleon's fatal flaws was his insistence on one-man rule which denied his commanders authority to transmit orders or control formations beyond his personal reach.

Like Napoleon, he made the

THE PURSUIT OF VICTORY
by Brian Bond
Oxford University Press £17.99, 250 pages

grand mistake of combining the roles of head of state and commander-in-chief of all German forces, which left him in his last days in the bunker acting like a madman trying to manoeuvre formations down to battalion size on both the eastern and western fronts.

For over 200 years military thinkers and strategists have been mesmerised by the concept of decisive victories. A single battle rarely lasting more than three days - Blenheim, Quebec, Austerlitz, Jena, Borodino, Waterloo, Yorktown - could bring the vanquished nation to sue for peace.

Even after the American civil war and before the first world war, no war was expected to last more than a year. They would be short, chivalrous, romantic and glorious. Anti-war writers like Norman Angell and Ivan Bloch made little impression by depicting the ugly realities of battle to a public which, according to Professor Bond, "found the spectacle of war even more attractive than the spectacle of football".

The most influential theorists on the conduct of war were the Swiss Antoine-Henry Jomini, who died in 1869, and the Prussian Carl von Clausewitz, who died in 1831. Although both recognised that victory required the concentration of force against decisive points, they differed on how this was to be achieved.

Jomini thought like a matador, recommending rapid flexible movements that would disrupt an opponent's lines of communication and penetrate his weak positions. Clausewitz was more the raging bull, arguing that direct annihilation of the enemy's forces in a decisive battle and total war as a continuation of national politics was the most effective way to victory.

These theories have inevitably been adjusted to suit modern realities of warfare such as the relative industrial

strengths of opposing powers, the tactics of attrition and pressures of economic deprivation and starvation on the civilian population, mass conscription, aerial bombardment and, ultimately, nuclear weapons.

Bond brilliantly analyses the impact of these technological developments on past theories. He shows how the defence exemplified by the Maginot Line was demolished by the mobility of German tank forces that broke through in 1940.

He also warns us that the nuclear bomb has made the world safe for small conventional wars such as Korea, Vietnam, the Falklands, the Arab-Israeli conflicts, the Iraq and the Gulf wars and the Bosnian civil strife.

"Victory is often costly, defeat is always worse" is how Bond sums up the findings of his splendid book:

"Defeat in war in particular may bring unexpected compensations, such as economic resurrection at the hands of the victors, or a political transition from an authoritarianism to a more democratic regime. But more often defeat has entailed physical devastation, military occupation, expulsion of population, punitive peace terms, and perhaps worst of all, long-lasting humiliation and internal hatreds."

Red Hoyle is a distinguished astrophysicist who has written, in his spare time and his retirement, a large corpus of science fiction. The quality of his novels is varied but his first one, *The Black Cloud*, does what truly great science fiction should do - educates as superbly as it entertains.

Scientific discoveries are often made, more or less simultaneously, by a convergence of more than one method. Hoyle's black cloud is detected by direct observation through an American telescope, and also by indirect mathematical reasoning in Cambridge. The direct observation is made by a homesick Norwegian research student routinely photographing stars on Mount Palomar. He shows his photographs to the elder statesman figure of the story, Geoff Marlowe. Marlowe hastily summons the brightest physicists and mathematicians in the area to read the astronomical ruse.

There is drama as the brightest of all the abrupt young mathematician Dave Weichart, strides to the blackboard and in a few lines of calculus (which are actually printed in the book), proves from the photographs that a dark projectile must be heading straight for our solar system. The troubled meeting is sworn to secrecy and Washington is informed.

What lifts the opening of this novel into a superior class is the next chapter, in which the cloud is simultaneously discovered, by a totally different method, in England. The cosmologist Christopher Kingsley has been dragged (against his will for he is an arch theorist who has not looked down a telescope for years) to a conference of amateur astronomers.

There is humour as Kingsley squirms with impatience through George Green's description of his attic telescope, leading up to his observation that Jupiter and Saturn are in the wrong places in the

Rereadings/Richard Dawkins Look, up in the sky...



sky. Kingsley's agony is deliberately prolonged by the Astronomer Royal who, with similarly excruciating digressions, confirms Green's observations.

Finally, Kingsley is invited by the chairman to comment. He remarks sarcastically that during the lectures he has had ample time to calculate that if the planetary perturbations reported are correct they must be due to the gravitational influence of some as yet unknown intruder into the solar system.

Finally convinced that the perturbation reports are not a hoax, Kingsley calculates the exact location of the unknown body. As usual, Cambridge is overcast, so Kingsley sends a telegram to a colleague in the US inviting him to point a telescope in the appropriate direction. That colleague (of course, since this is fiction) is the pipe-smoking senior scientist, Geoff Marlowe. Already primed by the independent discovery, Marlowe's receipt of Kingsley's telegram is a moment of goose-pimping drama:

"Cablegram for you, Dr Marlowe."

The words on the piece of paper seemed to swell to a gigantic size:

PLEASE INFORM WEATHER UNUSUAL OBJECT EXISTS AT RIGHT ASCENSION FIVE HOURS FORTY-SIX MINUTES, DECLINATION MINUS THIRTY DEGREES TWELVE MINUTES... VELOCITY SEVENTY KILOMETRES PER SECOND DIRECTLY TOWARDS EARTH...

by an uncouth rant, which the author puts into the mouth of Kingsley, against the foolishness of politicians. Kingsley even uses his influence with the god-like cloud to strike a blow for the mathematical mind against the previously dominant qualitative or literary mind.

This polemical part of the book is irritating, even embarrassing, and the Kingsley character himself is unpleasant. Under other names, many of Hoyle's novels have the same boorish, chip-on-shoulder, near-fascist hero.

But one can forgive much for the sheer scientific intelligence of the exploration of the nature of the cloud. This book certainly made me think more clearly, as a biologist, about individuality and the blurring of parts and wholes in living structures. I believe it was reading *The Black Cloud* that first drove home to me the importance of information theory and the essential interchangeability of coded information through different physical media. Finally, the cloud's own humility in the face of the fundamental laws of the universe has left me with an undying reverence for what is called "The Deep Problems".

Splendidly gripping, *The Black Cloud* is one of science fiction's great classics. Its flaws forgiveable because its insights are unforgettable.

Richard Dawkins is the first holder of Oxford University's newly endowed Charles Simonsi Chair in the Public Understanding of Science. His latest book is Climbing Mount Improbable.

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ARTS

A grand new concert hall tunes up

Martin Hoyle explains how Manchester raised cash for culture

The Bridgewater Hall is open for bookings. Its proud glass proclaims the new canal basin; a cultural liner loaded with the arts for central Manchester. Given the financial uncertainty of the arts at the moment, what prompted the construction of another magnificent new concert hall in a British regional city whose industrial base has changed radically since its 19th-century prime? And how, in these days of austerity, has this £42m, 2,400 seat venue been funded?

John Glaister, chief executive of the City of Manchester development corporation, explains. "The notion of a new concert hall goes back 20 or 30 years. The Free Trade Hall's time has expired in terms of modern use; it's not adequate for a city of three orchestras." (The venerable institution now has to serve the Hallé, the BBC Philharmonic

and the Manchester Camerata.) The funding problem eased comparisons with the American system. "We don't have the ability to attract contributions from foundations or major companies, to be written off for tax." And the American drive to build congress centres, sports stadia and arts halls as part of urban regeneration can profit from local tax of 2 per cent, "as a hotel tax or whatever. They can vote for it. That's why so many American cities achieve those facilities. We are not Uncle Sam. Capital facilities come from local tax, often very specifically identified."

Over the past ten years these facilities have been proved to be

"economic multipliers" bringing benefit to the community in all sorts of spin-offs. In the case of Manchester's mooted Bridgewater Hall, local urban benefits had to be added to the Treasury. "Parliament had voted money for regeneration," we are reminded. "So how could a concert hall be justified?"

It was, to the tune of £5m from the government's urban programme fund; as part of a thriving project of central development, including a quarter of a million square feet of pre-let office space. And the concert hall itself, once opened, will have the added attraction (in official eyes) of being run totally independent of public sub-

sidy. The CMDC and Manchester City Council also received EC money for the hall. After some prompting Glaister concedes that the 40 per cent of the cost met by Europe was "an important ingredient".

Another was the formation of Hallogon to manage the new hall. It sounds like a newly discovered gas or possibly a breath sweetener, but Hallogon is a joint venture company formed by the Hallé Concerts Society and Ogden Entertainment Service. The latter, the largest venue management company in the world and an offshoot of the Amer-

ican Ogden Corporation, already runs the 19,000 seat NYMEX Arena that opened in Manchester last July.

Thanks to the local authorities, the Bridgewater Hall opens with no capital debt burden; the professional management guarantees maximum exploitation of merchandising, marketing, catering and the factors that, once considered peripheral, are increasingly seen as central to managing entertainment enterprises; and three resident orchestras (100 concerts a year) ensure a basic occupancy and foundation income. It now has to break even; or, of course, do better...

The product looks like high qual-

ity. Architecturally striking, overlooking the canal, the hall's acoustics were overseen by Arup Acoustics, recently of new Glydebourne fame. The largest pipe-organ installed in Britain this century has just arrived from Denmark, a reminder that local talent provides the first organist-in-residence, Oldham-born Wayne Marshall. A foundation of giant springs ensures that vibrations from the nearby Metro-link will be absorbed. The auditorium achieves the intimate effect that new halls and theatres aim for, symptomatic of the desire to attract and welcome a new, less formal, audience. As at London's South Bank, the public spaces will

be open seven days a week. The music starts in September: a high-powered five days including a brace of concerts from the Hallé under Kent Nagano that see premieres by young lions George Benjamin and Thomas Adès; and John Adams (his *Symphony*); Daniel Barenboim and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra in Verdi, Elgar and Tchaikovsky; and Yan Pascal Tortelier conducting the BBC Philharmonic's debut in the new hall with Berlioz's *Grande Messe de Mortis*.

Artistically the future looks exciting. Financially the hall itself, *qua venus*, represents an experiment whose outcome may prove that public subsidy is less indispensable than we Europeans have been brought up to believe. As long as what goes into it is properly funded, of course...

The Bridgewater Hall opens on September 11. Box office 0161 834 1713.

Great man of design

William Packer reviews the William Morris exhibition

William Morris, the centenary of whose death falls this year, was regarded as one of the great Victorians. His influence has proved remarkably long-lasting, working on us directly even today. And yet he was not a great artist. Self-taught, his painting and drawing show a certain vigour and robust simplicity, but hardly great subtlety and refinement. His poetry, for which he enjoyed his contemporary reputation, is little read today. As an illustrator and designer, good as he was, he was one among many.

In public life, he was active in the early debate around issues of preservation of landscape and ancient buildings, in anticipation of such bodies as the National Trust. As to his politics, in middle life he shifted from liberalism to an ever more radical socialism, first with the Democratic Federation and then with the Socialist League. He sat on joint-committees, wrote manifestos, organised lectures and conferences.

But the reworking of the ancient traditions, in which Morris's own business was closely engaged, went on apace. And the longed-for revolution and final collapse of that capitalism, upon which his own fortune rested, never came. Always with Morris there are failures, contradictions and limitations.

So what then are his virtues and qualities? As so often, context and circumstances are everything. The young Morris was a romantic, steeped in Arthurian myth and the *Tennysonian* idyll. Up at Oxford in the 1850s, his was the time of the Oxford Movement, Gothic Revival and pre-Raphaelite medievalism - in short, bells and smells and high ideals, with Pugin and young Millais the immediate examples, and Ruskin of *The Stones of Venice* and *Modern Painters* the chief mentor.

Morris's great friend at Oxford was Burne-Jones, like him intended as a clergyman. But minds change and Art claimed them both. For Burne-

Jones, the new vocation of painter proved permanent: Morris's as architect short-lived, though of lasting effect. For it was in the few months he spent in the offices of G.E. Street that Morris first began to think about design. It was as a designer that he was to find his particular gift and, rather more to the point, it was as an enabling designer and creative ring-master that he was to prove remarkable.

He and Burne-Jones took lodgings in London, where their mutual circle of friends within genteel and youthful bohemia soon widened to include the painters Rossetti and Ford Madox Brown, and the architect Philip Webb. Needing furniture, they began to make their own, with their friends' help, solid and simple, medieval in form and painted decoration.

It was through this direct experience of making that Morris first became convinced of the essential bond between art and craft, between the material used, the hand that fashioned it and the object finally achieved. All was open, honest and direct. Truth to materials; probity of labour - it was a moral stance. We may patronise such "Arts and Crafts" innocence from our sophisticated distance, but its subsequent importance in the history of design, not just in England but abroad, is incalculable, from Art Nouveau, the Vienna Secession, Charles Mackintosh and the Bauhaus to Terence Conran and Laura Ashley.

From the *ad hoc* collaborations of those early days, Morris saw and took his chance. In 1861, he set up the partnership of Morris, Marshall, Faulkner and Co., to be run on supposedly medieval lines producing furniture, wall-hangings, tableware, stained-glass, tiles and so forth, with designs commissioned from an ever widening circle of artists.

At first it prospered on the booming market for church furnishings, and soon had to move to larger premises in Queen Square. Difficulties fol-



Bells, smells and high ideals: design for a stained glass window, 'The Death of Lazarus', under the guiding hand of William Morris

lowed, necessitating expansion into other fields, including interior decoration, notably served by the range of printed fabrics and papers upon which Morris's personal reputation as a designer still rides today. Renewed success brought new problems, and at last he bought out his partners, putting the firm under his own

name as Morris & Co. In 1881 the whole operation was shifted to a disused factory on the Wandale at Merton Abbey near Wimbledon, and so continued to expand and flourish into the 1890s under Morris's sole and energetic direction.

In the 1870s he had taken on the tenancy of Kelmscott Manor on the Upper Thames,

and it was there that he turned his attention to calligraphy, illumination and typography, where perhaps his true gifts lay. His Kelmscott Press, which he set up in London in 1891, published 86 books in all, that he hoped "would have a definite aim of beauty... easy to read and not dazzle the eye." That "definite aim of beauty"

could well stand as Morris's epitaph, not just as the primary artist himself in any particular enterprise, but as the encouraging and enabling sponsor of the work of others, who shared his aim. Here in this dense and fascinating exhibition we may feel that the tapestries and windows of Burne-Jones, or the simple ele-

gancies of the chairs and tables of Philip Webb are the more remarkable and impressive, but in all it is the generously guiding hand of William Morris that we celebrate.

William Morris 1834-1896: Victoria & Albert Museum, South Kensington, until September 1. Sponsored by Pearson.

The original idea was to review *Postcards From The Country and The End Of The Western World* in the same article simply because they both happened to be new factual series starting on BBC2 this week, the first on Wednesday and the second tomorrow. Wednesday's eight part series describes itself as being "about people's living memories of the British countryside" while we are told that in Sunday's two-part series "Martin Jacques goes in search of the secrets of the success of the tiger economies of Asia". Not much in common there, you might think.

Sure enough, *Postcards From The Country* is close to home, lyrical, often nostalgic, and full of wonderfully evocative black and white archive film. These

programmes carry you straight back to the world of the *Falling Comedies*, the *Home Service*, and Humphrey Jennings' *Listen To Britain*. The presenter, Richard Mabey, is known for his programmes about wildlife, so it was no surprise to find that the opening episode on Kent contained details about bullfinches and badgers, nor that next week's on the Shetlands has a fair amount to say about seabirds and otters. On the other hand, *The End Of The Western World* is decidedly exotic. Presenter Martin

Jacques, former editor of "Marsden Today", visits Malaysia, Taiwan and China in the first programme and talks a bit about politics on the Pacific rim, and about whether the tiger economies will overtake the west very soon or merely soon.

Not only are the locations half a world away from the orchards of Kent, the styles of the two series are also miles apart. While Mike Birkhead and David Rolfe, producers of *Postcards*, keep their presenter off screen altogether, Mike Smith, producer of the Pacific

rim series, encourages Jacques to give us the full works. He waves his hands at the camera while barking out didactic sentences (shades of Magnus Pyke and David Bellamy), dons jogging gear for a run round the new stadium being constructed in Kuala Lumpur (early *That's Life*), and then, as though addressing dim infants, announces "Time for a sit down" (*PlaySchool*). However, we also see him in the middle of a political demonstration, and explaining, by way of the precise workings of a Taiwanese computer factory,

exactly why the tiger economies are still not quite in the premier league.

So, two series of utter contrasts? In some ways yes, and yet the concern at the centre of both is virtually identical: people coming to terms with radical change, social and economic. *Postcards* tells of the days when Kent was the orchard of England, cockneys went hopping, straw was stooked by hand (you don't have to be awfully old to have done that in earnest) and children caught newts in the village pond on their way to school. There are dangers of preciousness and sentimentality here, but Birkhead and Rolfe are wide awake to that. They bring out the idyllic side of the hop-picking jamboree but also the consistent bad feeling between Londoners and villagers.

Most impressive of all, they encourage Derek Sheffield to tell of how, as a boy, he had watched a lone Spitfire doing a victory roll over the summer fields of Kent and, from that moment on, had dreamed of doing it himself. Of how, as a man, he had finally flown over the same area in a small single-engine plane, had indeed done a victory roll, and - upside down - had looked up

at his village and realised that everyone he had ever loved there had gone, and even his own house had disappeared. He has never flown over the area again. There is sentiment here, certainly, but also a hard-edged realism which is less common in series of this sort. Next week's account of life in the Shetlands, which again cuts with great ease between monochrome archive and full colour video, includes a starkly factual account of how the Scottish herring drifters (so lovingly documented in Grierson's famous 1929 documentary, *Drifters*, clips of which are, I suspect, included in this programme) were driven off the face of the ocean in one season by the Scandinavian purse netters.

You could see that as a paradigm for the process now being documented by Jacques. Perhaps the most telling aspects of his evidence so far

are the way that Malaysia is now having to import cheap migrant labour from Indonesia and Bangladesh when, so recently, cheap labour was its own chief resource; and the way that Taiwan, not long ago the world's largest manufacturer of shoes, now has to shift its production base for such simple items to the newer Asian tigers such as mainland China in order to keep labour costs down. What emerges from these two series is not so much that change comes to all of us, but that the rate of change keeps on accelerating. How much faster can it go before it begins to feel completely inhuman?

Stephen Pettitt

Television/Christopher Dunkley

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ARTS

Carmen meets Eeyore

Clement Crisp reviews Antonio Gades at Sadler's Wells

I am not persuaded that by using a few Classic snippets from Bizet's opera, Antonio Gades is offering his audience anything much to do with Carmen.

Gades is returned to Sadler's Wells with his company after two decades, in a version of the 1964 film he made with Carlos Saura which set Mérimée's drama within the context of a flamenco troupe. The film drove me into convulsions of yawns - unremitting passion and proudly arched bodies are not my ideal companions for any length of time and this staging, for all its tricks, is a monotonous affair.

Its merits are in the changes of pace which find Gades' view of the tale (Carmen with a husband and the predatory sexuality of a widow spider) whisking through rehearsals by a flamenco company. Austerity of image - chairs and mirrored panels as setting - is in clever contrast with the unbridled emotions of the tale.

But improbability lies at the heart of the affair. The contradictions between Bizet (in a flashy recording) and flamenco yowling and guitar sonorities; the lack of credible characterisation - save of Carmen as a

bold-eyed and bolder-mannered senorita - give the piece an arbitrary, unreasoned air.

Carmen's death, albeit it could not come quickly enough for me, is precipitate, and feebly plotted. A cod bull-fight is amusing, and much enlivened by a sturdy chap in a green pullover and trailing skirt, but makes little point.

The central problem lies in the central performances. Stella Arauzo's Carmen is coarse-grained (not that one expects a portrait drawn by Miss Austen) and somehow lacking in sexual charm to lighten her sultry manners.

Antonio Gades' Don José is even more of a difficulty. No longer a young buck - Gades will be 60 this year - his José has the Eeyore look of a man who has sunk his life savings into a scheme to farm oysters in Lake Geneva, and a distinctly careful way with dancing.

The other chaps - Carmen's husband; the torero - are, shall we say, quite mature figures. It is all reminiscent of the old *Vie Parisienne* joke: "Pass me my teeth, dear. I want to bite you".

The Gades ensemble stamp, sing, flaunt themselves with a will. The audience seemed to love every moment of it.



Stella Arauzo and Antonio Gades as Carmen and Don José: a distinctly careful way of dancing

Off the Wall/Antony Thorncroft Why lottery sums don't match

Well, can business deliver? When arts companies prepared their bids for lottery cash they earmarked their corporate friends to provide a substantial chunk of the partnership funding required by the Arts Council. It seems that they were over-optimistic. Colin Tweedy has been proved right.

Tweedy, the chief executive of the Association of Business Sponsorship of the Arts, was the Jeremiah who predicted that the corporate sector was unwilling to be the milk cow of the arts. He was, of course, defending his patch: any money given by companies towards lottery-funded capital arts projects might well be money switched from traditional sponsorship of arts events.

His warnings have unsettled the Arts Council that it reviewed the situation. It looked in detail at the 124 arts projects asking for over £100,000 from the lottery (which means they have to put up 25 per cent through their own efforts) and discovered that of the collective £60m these applicants had hoped to receive from the corporate sector only 24 per cent has so far been confirmed. There is a shortfall of around £45m, which is exactly half the £90m

still needed by arts companies to meet lottery commitments. In general the arts world has done remarkably well. The 124 companies have to raise £310m to satisfy the Arts Council, and so far have £159m in the bag (mainly from individuals who have given almost £70m), with another £24m firmly promised, leaving the £90m still to be gathered in. The majority of this relates to just 16 projects, of which the most notable are in London - Sadler's Wells, the Royal Court Theatre and Covent Garden.

But oddly enough London is not the crisis area. London applicants have already secured 80 per cent funding. It is arts companies in the other major cities which are having the biggest problems, with less than half their partnership targets secured. It is just that the sums sought in London are greater, although it seems that the Arts Council has advised the two most worried applicants, Sadler's Wells and the Royal Court, to take their time over fund-raising appeals. One thing seems certain: the

Arts Council is not prepared to reduce the 25 per cent contribution it requires from big applicants. It would cause chaos moving the goal posts prematurely. Instead an effort will be made to persuade business to contribute more. One possibility is that companies, in return for tax incentives, give their favourite arts organisations shares which can be used as collateral in lottery bids.

It is time for another spate of "West End in crisis" stories, interwoven with predictions that the audience for classical music concerts is also dying of tetanus. Are our theatres and concert halls in deep trouble? The short answer is no. The last two weeks have probably been disappointing for many West End producers, but this is always the worst time of year, with extra daylight drawing people out of doors and the bulk of foreign tourists, who make up a third of the audience, yet to arrive. The actual facts, the latest

box office figures, show the West End to be remarkably healthy. In 1995 audiences rose 7 per cent to a record 11.9m. For the first quarter of 1996 figures to be released next week will reveal a 4 per cent drop on 1995, but this is accounted for by the Canary Wharf bomb in February, which immediately knocked 7 per cent off box office sales.

By March confidence had returned and attendances during the month were actually up 1 per cent on 1995. Which ever way you squeeze it the West End has proved remarkably resilient.

For classical music the picture is not quite so rosy. For two decades after 1970 attendances at the main venues, London's South Bank Centre, with 4,500 seats a night to fill over three halls, fell remorselessly, from 80 per cent to 60 per cent. The decline has been stanchied by popularising the repertoire, and last season the tide turned, with attendances in 1994-95 rising to 63 per cent.

The higher level is being maintained this year, but only

by reducing further the number of classical concerts at the Festival Hall by around 10 per cent, replacing them with pop, jazz and Third World music. The house orchestra of the South Bank, the London Philharmonic, now plays 25 per cent fewer concerts than four years ago but its audiences this season, which average around 70 per cent, are still 2 per cent lower.

The audience for the conventional classical concert has dropped dramatically. Now it will only turn out for an event - an interesting programme, or a star conductor or soloist, preferably both. The London Symphony Orchestra has shown what can be done by consistently attracting average audiences of 88 per cent as the house orchestra of the Barbican, but it is much more generously funded than the other London symphony orchestras. And when the LSO is not playing, the Barbican suffers from the general unwillingness of concert goers to venture out at night.

Unlike the US, the UK keeps fairly quiet about the size of the audience for arts events. The Arts Council does collect figures from the companies it subsidises but hardly goes out of its way to publicise the results. Perhaps it feels that, after 50 years in the job, it should be able to announce constantly rising attendances and is embarrassed by the fact that there is still plenty of spare capacity.

The latest statistics, which cover the 1994-95 season, hardly suggest that the arts are booming; but they do not shout disaster either. Dance performances around the country, for example, have attracted audiences of 71 per cent capacity for each of the last three years. Opera moved up sharply from 70 per cent in 1993-94 to 78 per cent last season, but there were fewer performances.

Drama in the regional theatres is rather lacklustre, bumping along at just under 60 per cent of capacity for three years, while orchestral concerts are not much more popular, with 64 per cent capacity, and that includes the four London orchestras, as well as the six main regional bands. Here again perhaps the surprise is that, with CDs so readily available, there is still a sizeable audience for such a 19th-century art form as the symphony.

of a splendidly riveting Radio 4 play last Saturday. Mike Harris' *The Brahmin* and the *Lady* ostensibly charted the relationship between Nehru and Edwina Mountbatten at the time of the partition of India.

In fact, the play's only fault - but a good one - was that the two figures were submerged in the panorama of those momentous times. There were, of course, traps galore; after the use of Noel Coward's "Poor Little Rich Girl" one awaited cartoon royalty or blimpish Brits, but everyone was allowed their dignity while avoiding both obsequious whitewash or pug-nacious caricature. It was the best sort of historical drama, or novel, come to that - depicting the impact of great events on the lives of those caught up in them.

Julian Wadham was a sympathetic Dickie Mountbatten. Sam Dastor convinced as Nehru, that mixture of the pragmatic and the ruthless. Only Celia Imrie's Edwina sounded as if she had spent too long in sitcom. But it was an extraordinarily compelling experience (director David Hunter).

Record Review/Richard Fairman

Love and other matters

For years it seemed that Britten's own recording of *Peter Grimes* would stay unchallenged. So long as the title-role was identified with Peter Pears, other tenors tended to regard it as a no-go area and it has taken the rise of a new generation of singers to show how many sides to the part there really are - a 20th-century tenor role to stand alongside Monteverdi's Orfeo or Verdi's Otello.

The new Chandos set has Philip Langridge, who is as different from Pears as he is from Jon Vickers and Anthony Rolfe-Johnson, the other tenors who have committed the role to disc. So often new recordings these days seem superfluous, but not this one. Langridge's Peter Grimes is so compelling that he demanded to be recorded in his own right. His strength is to make every utterance sound essential to the drama, even where Britten's vocal writing is at its most contrived. It is as though one is listening to an actor working through the medium of song - a Grimes of the most searing theatrical intensity.

of how the singers were struggling against the odds in the theatre. Deborah Polaski's Elektra is rather unrelentingly geared towards power, which is a shame, as her softer singing works well. Alessandra Marc's Chrysothemis barely utters one intelligible word. Waltraud Meier as Klytemnestra has an easier time against the orchestra and is the only one to impose a distinct personality on the set.

Bryn Terfel naturally has no trouble making himself heard on his first solo opera recital disc. A big voice and a big personality, Terfel is equal to the challenge of any of the great operatic characters he might aspire to play. The singer says that each of the arias here represents a role he hopes to assume in the future, though he is surely too heavy for Rossini's witty *La Cenerentola* and as yet too young for Verdi's Falstaff. But how vividly they all come to life. Gounod's Mephistopheles flashes sparks of devilish charm and Borodin's Prince Igor sends shivers of patriotic fervour down one's back. The two Wagner solos, including a grandly sung Flying Dutchman, promise great things to come.

Britten: Peter Grimes. City of London Sinfonia/Hickox. Chandos CHAN 9447/8 (2 discs). Strauss: Elektra. Staatskapelle Berlin/Barenboim. Teldec 4509-961/75-2 (2 discs) Bryn Terfel. Metropolitan Opera Orch/Levine. DG 445 886-2.

Angela Gheorghiu. Orchestra of the Teatro Regio, Turin/Maverl. Decca 452 417-2. Roberto Alagna and Angela Gheorghiu. Orchestra of the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden/Armstrong. EMI CDC5 56117-2.

The debut recital disc by Angela Gheorghiu is welcome for different reasons. Gheorghiu is not one of those rare singers who step into the public spotlight as fully-formed and inspirational artists, like Terfel. She is unlikely to tell us anything we did not know already about characters like Puccini's Mimi or Gounod's Marguerite, both included on this disc. But there is a quiet



Angela Gheorghiu: adorable love duets with Roberto Alagna

sensibility in the voice that makes the emotions seem to be felt afresh. Gheorghiu is an intimate performer. Whether she is singing Bellini's Juliet or Massenet's Salomé, inviting her into the living-room is like welcoming a close friend.

Since her Covent Garden *Traviata* she and Roberto Alagna have been the darlings of the media. Their first ever recital disc together should be worth a few more pages in the colour supplement. In the French and Italian repertoire they make ideal young lovers - as Massenet's Mignon and Des Grieux or Gounod's Marguerite and Faust (though not, I think, Berlioz's *Les Troyens*, for which Gheorghiu is too light to make a suitably regal Didon). The disc opens with the adorable Chery Duet from Mascagni's *L'amico Fritz*, pure charm as long as one does not remember the young Freni and Pavarotti in the same piece. It ends with *La Bohème*, the first-act duet full of character. That is the opera in which they have been singing at the Metropolitan Opera in New York. They were also married there two weeks ago. EMI has just managed to get this wedding gift wrapped in time.

I can remember when Britain was regarded as workaholic, the strike centre of the labouring world, the everything-stops-on-a-stamp country; looked at positively, the average Briton preferred privacy and leisure to making a packet like the Germans or Americans. Interpreted less flatteringly, the Englishman was bone idle.

Yet now, would you believe, the accepted British sickness is workaholicism. This emerged from Sunday's *A View from Abroad* (Radio 4). The Spanish writer Pedro Sorela, in a programme subtitled "Britain's Lost Paradise", took his cue from a gratifyingly (and shamefully) detailed knowledge of our literature to track down the Britain of his imagination. Sorry, sir, we're fresh out of it. Staring out at Bristol Docks and the tavern that inspired Stevenson to write *Treasure Island*, Sorela touchingly sought the gleam of real Englishness, but someone had been there first. Not even sartorial elegance is left. Where, he wondered, was the wool, the tweed, the shoes for men that,

Radio/Martin Hoyle A lack of cultural identity

exported to respectful foreigners, last for 20 years or so? He noted the new ugliness; the cheapness, the trainers and sports clothes worn in non-sporting situations (one of the frowzier aspects of new Britain).

He also commented on the ugly buildings, not merely unprepossessing in themselves but blighting pretty surroundings. In his gentle way he was damning our planners and architects as well as our individual blindness to style. This led naturally to the current acceptance of money as the gauge of success. And still nobody had stumbled on the obvious fact: that Britain has effectively been an American colony, culturally speaking, since the great grocer's daughter was our high priestess of materialism.

Eventually someone mentioned America, but only as a comparison, not as attribution - evidently we have learnt our lessons so well that our new materialism is assimilated, by now echi-British. And American parallels can be drawn with our new love of imposing rules - fining people for smoking, marvelled the Spaniard - and our health fads, our money-grubbing. In latter-day Britain, as in earlier America, there are no absolutes. We are searching for a code of right and wrong, and find it in trivia, for lack of a cohesive cultural identity.

Kate McCall produced a fascinating programme, wistful and disturbing. Its only weak link was the unintended comedy of Jonathan Meades, a restaurant critic. He maintains that the loutish English are reverting to violent type. On the other hand they are suburban at heart. They are afraid

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FOOD AND DRINK

Cookery / Philippa Davenport

From the rustic to the rich

Cookery breaks are a growing segment of the package holiday market but the degree of comfort on offer, and the quality and relevance of the teaching, vary enormously...

The learning element on some cookery holidays consists of a few peacock display demonstrations by a celebrity chef, plus a question and answer session...

At the other extreme there are hillside rustic inclusions where the accommodation offers little in the way of hot and cold running comforts...

Is there a happy medium? I have not been on any of the holidays outlined below but discussions with the organisers suggest they should be able to deliver a happy mix of relaxation and inspiration...

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building culinary confidence in others, open to fresh ideas and fun to be with. She is a cook, not a chef. I am sorry to be sexist and I am sorry if I appear anti-chef...

to sit down and eat. Chefs have all day to cook and staff to back them. Home cooks do not. Eating in restaurants can spark great ideas...

in the UK, they understand the British cook's needs and approach and can, for example, advise about substitute ingredients where necessary.

them. If you rate room service, privacy and independence highly, think again before booking. The atmosphere is informal, closer to a house-party than a hotel...

Meals are taken at communal tables (munch, dinner and, alas, breakfast too); expeditions are usually made by minibus. Favoured locations are converted farmhouses with added swimming pool...

Prices generally cover the whole programme, excluding flights but including organised outings such as going to market, meeting local food producers...

A little light foraging for foods from the wild is almost certain to be scheduled; at the very least there will be the opportunity to harvest produce from the vegetable garden or orchard of the host property...

Wine

Future present

Jancis Robinson gets her Bordeaux thrills cheaply

His campaign is the nastiest I have known," says one London wine merchant bitterly about his experiences selling (or rather allocating) futures in 1995 Bordeaux.

With scores of important prices still undivulged (and even the normally underpriced Ch Léoville-Barton seeking an increase of 30 per cent), it is certainly the messiest, most protracted Bordeaux en primeur campaign ever.

1. All the first growths start off at the same opening price from the châteaux and then prices rapidly diverge according to reputations determined by the impact of half-formed legends on a few influential palesters...

2. The Bordeaux negotiators favour those customers who have stock with them through lesser vintages (such as 1991, 1992, 1993 and even 1994) - at least this, they intimate, is why British merchants' allocations are being squeezed.

3. The châteaux owners play a self-important waiting game ("After you... No, after you..."), releasing their opening prices at a snail's pace lest a neighbour might manage to trump their price.

One unusual characteristic of this year's campaign, according to Graham Chidgey of Laytons, London NW1, which has been selling Bordeaux en primeur since 1964...

The challenge for the British merchants is not to cut a deal but to get their hands on enough of the most sought-after wines - for 1995 is not a year to tarry with second best.

This is a year in which Corny & Barrow of London EC1's policy of pursuing exclusive distribution agreements is paying off. If you want to buy Pomerol superstar Ch Pétrus, the good-value Clos St Martin, or any one of the opulent fan of right bank properties represented by J.P. Moueix...

If you want to buy Ch Le Pin, Pétrus's new rival, forget it. The Far Eastern market has discovered it in a big way and there are signs that Asian customers have found that it is possible to bypass London en route for Bordeaux.

If you want a comprehensive view of the vintage, get the new list from Farr Vintners of London SW1. True to form, Farr includes scores from the influential Americans Robert Parker and Wine Spectator...

In other cases I might suggest steering clear of a merchant which boasts of its high profitability; but for goods that will not even be delivered for two years, and may sit in bonded warehouses for many years after that, the importer's financial security is a key factor.

Me, I'm off to Marks and Spencer. It has a delightful, lively Classic Claret 1995 Ch Cazeau at £4.99. It may have been made at a co-op in the Entre-Deux-Mers but it can deliver much of that exciting purple, concentrated, whiff-of-fermentation-rot thrill that attaches to all well-made young Bordeaux - and may just persuade you that 1995s are worth investing in.

By the end of this month Oddbins (which will, bless it, be offering grand 1995s by the bottle from the end of next year) should have the even more convincing Ch Larigone, Côtes de Castillon 1995, also £4.99, in a very smart bottle with lots of ripe tannins and tasty, crunchy fruit.

By early June the Co-op should have Ginestet's sappy Ch Pierrou-selle 1995 for only £3.49 and by early July the northern supermarket Morrisons should have its superior Graves sister, Ch St Gallier 1995, for £2.85.

These last two wines are the impressive result of Ginestet's policy of overseeing production on the spot via a local team of winemakers who have "flown" dozens rather than thousands of miles. These are all wines which can be drunk already with great pleasure - while waiting for the grand châteaux to sort out their pecking order.



Eating Out / Nicholas Lander

The revival of pub food

When I asked the taxi driver to drop me at O'Connor Don, a pub on the corner of Marylebone Lane, London, he was convinced I was going there for the beer.

But before I had even stepped my first half of draught Guinness in the first-floor restaurant above the pub, I had been warmly greeted, shown a wine list that featured enterprising wines by the glass - including a Petit Syrah from Mexico - and an enticing menu.

My lunch, six hot, buttered Irish oysters followed by herb-crusted calves liver - sadly spoiled by disappointing red onion marmalade - and an excellent armagnac and prune parfait sharpened by an Earl Grey syrup, would have convinced even the most sceptical taxi driver that there was more to this pub than beer.

Pubs are sited on some of the finest locations in British towns and villages. Other European cities, such as Paris, Amsterdam, Brussels and Madrid, have always understood the value of a good corner site and it is no surprise that so many are occupied by bars and brasseries.

A trip to Wardour Street, Soho, central London, illustrates the point. On one side is Mezzo, touted by Sir Terence Conran, its creator, as London's riposte to Paris's La Coupole. To create this 700-seater, Sir Terence had to dig underground, from a frontage of no more than 17 yards leaving only a handful of window tables.

Across the street, with a corner frontage twice as large, is the handsomely sited but sadly neglected pub, The Intrepid Fox.

The food served in the 85 to 90 per cent of British pubs that are still controlled by the four leading brewers improves slowly, albeit to a formula. To find genuine culinary excitement you have to discover pubs owned or managed by individuals.

The Crown struggled for six months but now makes a terrific profit, says Loftus. As well as his own personal style, Loftus also disclosed the financial structure he had put in place - one that is considered vital to running a successful pub now.

He retains the beer, ensuring that the range and quality is as good as possible, because nothing in a pub is as profitable as selling a pint or a shot of spirits (gross profit can be well over 60 per cent). He introduced an inexpensive, accessible wine list - wine is particularly popular with women, the 50 per cent of the British population whom pubs had invariably ignored.

Finally, he served food that customers were happy to order regularly. The Monopolies and Mergers Commission break-up of the brewing industry and the recession both played their part in bringing Loftus's ideas to London.

In 1991 Michael Belben met chef David Eyre working in a Covent Garden restaurant and they hatched plans to buy their own place. This exercise was proving expensive, even on paper, when they were tipped off about The Eagle, a pub on the corner of Farringdon Road, E1, which a small brewery was so keen to sell that it loaned them 25 per cent of the £25,000 set-up costs.

Belben said: "What we have tried to do is offer restaurant quality but dispense with the inherent pomposity. There's no linen on the tables, no waiter service and no tipping - it's very simple entertainment. But if there is one thing we did pioneer it is one-plate dishes, such as Italian sausages with sweet roast onions and rocket, which keep prices down."

This is another integral part of a financially successful life for pubs, because with longer opening hours they can serve numbers that restaurants cannot match. The Eagle seats 55 but during a two-hour lunch serves 120 people. Rarely does even the most popular restaurateur manage to 'turn a table' at lunchtime.

Within London, The Eagle has fostered The Lansdowne and The Engineer, in NW1; The Angelsea Arms, W6; Front Page and The Cross Keys, SW3; The Mason's Arms, SW8, and The Ship, SW18. But it is on the borders of Cambridgeshire, Suffolk and Essex that the next stage of ameliorating pub food is taking place.

There are four pubs - The Three Horseshoes in Madingley, The White Hart, Great Yeldham, The Pheasant, Keyston near Huntingdon, and the Old Bridge in Huntingdon - run by Hunsbridge Ltd and its managing director, John Hoskins, a Master of Wine.

They share not only the care of a bountiful wine cellar with a high proportion of half-bottles but also a financial incentive scheme that puts the success of each pub squarely on the shoulders of the chef.

"What I have done," Hoskins says, "is to give the chef a financial stake in each pub. Because the pubs are physically close together customers can compare whether the pan-fried fillet of sea bass with ratatouille and spinach pasta at The White Hart tastes as good as the sea bass with fennel and cardamom purée at The Pheasant."

By turning the chefs into cheff-patrons they have become far more responsible for what is virtually their own business. Customers have benefited while business and chefs have prospered - Hoskins says that over the past two years two chefs have earned more than he has.

Food as I am of draught Guinness and real ale, a pub where the chef is considered an important ingredient is my idea of a good pub.

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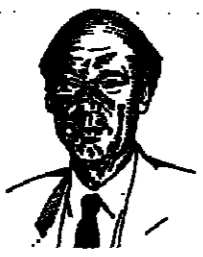
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James Morgan

All those troublesome neighbours

Britain has a unique problem when it comes to following rules set by its European partners

Britain is at the mercy of vindictive foreigners. I learned this from a recent article by the former Tory minister Lord Tebbit in *The Sun*. The noble lord regularly provides an analysis of international affairs in Britain's largest selling daily, notably about the mad cow scare, as in this instance; it is a pity that readers of this paper are rarely acquainted with his views.

Why Britain always loses out to Brussels? The point of this lengthy introduction is to pose a question: how many countries today blame foreigners for their problems? A variant of the tendancy appeared in Pat Buchanan's campaign for the Republican presidential nomination, but he did not impute malice to those who were grabbing US markets.

German to allege that anybody but a German has been at fault. Russians believe in fate, while the inhabitants of many small countries - Switzerland, the Netherlands and Norway - believe they have no problems at all.

The only nation I have come across which shares Britain's attitudes is Slovakia. It blames Hungarians and Czechs for its woes. Of course, parallels are not exact. (Readers will be interested to know that since this country was last featured here, a sad fate has befallen the policeman who was to be a witness in the trial concerning the abduction of President Kovac's son

to Austria. He has been blown up. It was said that the affair had been masterminded by the state security services.) British domestic politics are less colourful, but much of their tension derives from difficulties with neighbours. And in Britain, as in Slovakia, there is tension between the judicial and the political process. As unlikely as it seems, this is relevant to the perennial debate over what Britain is to do about its troublesome partners.

The great beef export ban has highlighted the uniquely British problem about who makes the laws, as well as reinforcing the position of those who wish to leave the Union. In most countries there is a constitution, or basic law, which has to be followed by the legislature. In Britain, parliament is sovereign and can make whatever laws it likes. So it is that this country's equivalent of the justice minister runs into trouble with the judges as he acts on the basis of what some might call a situational ethic.

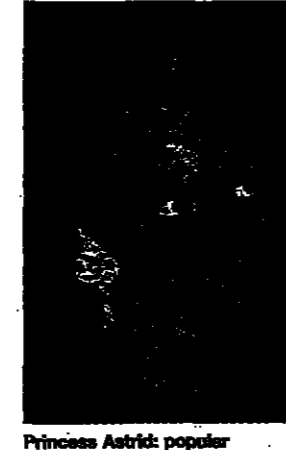
And so it was that the one-time challenger for the leadership of the Conservative party, John Redwood, proposed last week that parliament should pass a bill stating that British legislation had precedence over the European Court and its law. That almost has the force of a basic law. Abolish it, said Redwood, and Britain could happily resume exporting beef outside Europe and win friends all over the world - presumably even among those who, like the US, banned it years ago.



Prince Philippe: on target for the throne?



King Baudouin



Princess Astrid: popular



King Albert II: 'looks the part'

Royalty Heirs and grouses

The monarchy in Belgium is the trickiest in Europe to predict, says Christian Tyler

The only real Belgians, it has been said, are the country's royal family. This adage has a paradoxical consequence. Belgium's kings have felt obliged to demonstrate their impartiality by marrying foreigners. In a nation linguistically rent between Dutch-speaking Flemish and French-speaking Walloons, politically devolved into a federation since 1993, the slightest hint of royal favouritism can cause howls of protest.

The late King Baudouin married a Spanish aristocrat. His father married a Swedish princess. His brother, now Albert II, married an Italian noblewoman. Albert's son and heir Prince Philippe - unmarried at 36 - parted from his latest girlfriend, the gossips say, not because she was a businessman's daughter and a companion but because she was Flemish.

Forty years ago, the Socialist prime minister Achille Van Acker declared that the Belgians needed a monarchy as much as they needed bread. It is a remark which is often quoted today. A president, so the argument goes, is no substitute because a president will inevitably be identified with one group, one region, one religion.

This lurking threat of civil strife has made the Belgian succession the trickiest of all European monarchies. When Baudouin died unexpectedly three years ago, aged 63, it had been widely understood that Albert, officially next in line, would renounce his claim in favour of his own son, Prince Philippe.

The pundits said Albert had no expectation of succeeding: his wife Paola had not even bothered to learn Dutch. Furthermore, the couple had only recently overcome serious marital troubles, which included an early affair of Paola's. Whether the decision was made by the family or by the cabinet under prime minister Jean-Luc Dehaene of the Christian Social party is unclear, but Albert was persuaded to take the throne.

The future is less predictable. In 1991 the constitution was amended to allow women to succeed. Although officials say this is merely a piece of overdue modernisation, some palace watchers maintain that it is covertly designed for Albert's daughter Astrid. Baudouin, they say, regarded his niece as better suited to the job than the immature Philippe, an indifferent scholar whose main interests appeared to be fast cars and aeroplanes.

But the greatest crisis for the monarchy, which brought the country to the brink of civil strife in the early 1950s, grew out of the second world war. Hoping to emulate his father's stand 25 years previously, Leopold III had decided to stay with his people when Hitler's army swept through the Low Countries.

His rapid capitulation as head of the Belgian forces without the consent of his ministers in exile both infuriated the Allied commanders and - justifiably or not - opened a breach with the British royal family which took years to repair. Leopold became a prisoner of the Germans at one point visiting Hitler in Berchtesgaden in order to plead for his countrymen, and was shuffled with his family round Europe as the Allies advanced.

In the meantime, he did nothing to enhance his domestic popularity by remarriage - disorder and possibly the break-up of the state. Baudouin was young, shy and apparently disinclined to reign when he came to the throne. He was a deeply religious Catholic, with Opus Dei connections and a strong social conscience.

He was known as *le roi triste* because of the loss of his mother and because he and his wife Fabiola had no children. Fabiola suffered several miscarriages, a private grief which was not helped by the allegation in a recent book by two French journalists that on one occasion Baudouin had succumbed to the suggestion that she have an abortion on medical grounds.

Mad cows versus sad bulls

Curro Romero, a proud, sprightly man, betraying few signs of his 60 years, is one of Spain's best-known bullfighters. He is also a figure of some controversy among that country's aficionados of the *corrida*. Half of them - the anti-*curristas* - insist that it is time Romero swapped his scarlet cape for a free bus pass. Bullfighting, they assert, is strictly a young man's affair.

Wrong, say the *curristas*. To do battle against a brave *toro* is a thing of art. Would you prevent older men from dancing? From singing? To watch Curro in the ring is to watch the effortless expertise of experience, like Connery in his last Bond movies, or, to move up a cultural gear or two, Tennessee Ernie Ford.

Or Tony Adams' injuries? Or Joe Bugner's fight-against-the-flab? I found it hard to imagine how one man's apparent inability to surrender to his mortality should captivate an entire nation.

Ah, but I was missing the point, responded my friend. The vote for Curro was one for the true art of the bullfight. True, he did not favour the flashier moves of his younger rivals. But his elegant, economical style and quick, classically executed kill was the way of the true *matador*. Curro represented the old Spain, restrained, dignified, respectful of tradition. The brut pack, all meaningless twirls and superficial athleticism, packaged like pop stars, demeaned the art. This was nothing less than a battle for the soul of the country.

In other words, he explained, just like Britain, Spain was struggling to define its cultural identity in an age of conformity and globalisation. The Curro Romero debate was just a particular and peculiar manifestation of this crisis of values.

Of course, like a true, kind-to-animals Briton of exquisite moral sensibility, the thought crossed my mind that perhaps modern Spain should embrace a third option: give up the *corrida* altogether and concentrate on sports which do not reveal quite so explicitly in torture and slaughter.

But, truth to tell, it was not a good time for a British citizen to assume superior moral positions on treatment of livestock. The ethical differences between mad cows and sad bulls became quite opaque in my mind, while the ridiculous sight of bulls' heads grotesquely lining the walls of Corroba's Museo Taurino surely had its counterpart in Damien Hirst's trendy frolics with formaldehyde. No, we agreed, when it came to bovine self-respect, both Britain and Spain were a couple of lentils short of correctitude.

And so the following morning, I went to my first bullfight. Unfortunately, it did not feature charismatic Curro, but I felt I would anyway better understand the previous night's discussion. I saw things which I expected, for which I had steeled myself, and things which I didn't: the fierce, sustained lancing of the bull's neck and shoulders by the *picadores*, a squalid, messy part of the contest; the coughing up of blood in the final phases of the *matador's* taunting; the mass whistling of a bull which hadn't "battled" well as its carcass is dragged out of the ring, in many ways the most brutal part of the whole spectacle.

And yet, there was beauty: grace and bravery. The *curristas* do not like it when the new wave *matadores* ostentatiously bend down on one knee and kiss the bull's horn. They find it vulgar, unnecessarily humiliating, foolhardy. It is, however, nitpicking.

But what a curious piece of work is Europe, where these arcane discussions represent a serious debate on nationhood. I finally thought of a British equivalent for my friend, and explained to him why the placing of the Queen's head on a coin was an urgent issue of national identity. Somehow, it seemed to lack urgency. We soon gave up the chat and waved our white handkerchiefs in the air. Everyone else was doing it, and it felt very Spanish.

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WEEKEND INVESTOR

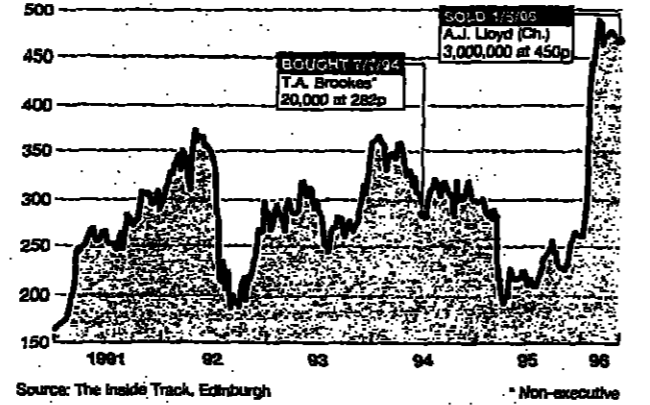
Results due next week

Table listing companies, sectors, announcement dates, and dividend information for the week of May 11-12, 1996.

Directors' transactions

The market has been weaker over the past five days, possibly because of concern that the present government has run its course, writes Vivien MacDonald of The Inside Track.

Lloyds Chemists



Directors' share transactions in their own companies

Table showing directors' share transactions in their own companies, including company name, sector, shares, value, and number of directors.

Dividends are shown net per share and are adjusted for any intervening scrip issues. Reports and accounts are not normally available until about six weeks after the reporting period.

Last week's interim results

Table showing interim results for various companies, including profit and dividend per share.

Figures in parentheses are for the corresponding period. Dividends are shown net per share, except where otherwise indicated.

Last week's preliminary results

Table showing preliminary results for various companies, including profit and dividend per share.

Figures in parentheses are for the corresponding period. Dividends are shown net per share, except where otherwise indicated.

New issues

Rights issues

Abington is to raise £1.5m via a 1-2 rights issue at 5p.

Offers for sale, placings & introductions

Chiroscience is to raise £10.2m via a placing and open offer of 10.2m shares at 100p each and an offer of 1.7m shares at 110p.

Dragon Oil is to raise about £100m via a placing & open offer of 2.5m shares at 110p and an open offer of 84m shares on a 2-5 basis at 110p per share.

Flying Colours is to raise £2.2m via a placing & open offer.

Jarvis Hotels is to raise about £100m via its flotation.

Just Group is raising £200,000 via a placing of 30m shares at 5p.

Preventer Group is raising £2.6m via a placing of 2m shares at 130p.

Current takeover bids and mergers

Table listing current takeover bids and mergers, including company name, value of bid, market value, and price before offer.

Investment strategies

Trust in the hedgehog to lead you towards a fortune

Maggie Urry on the Warren Buffett phenomenon

The fox knows many things, but the hedgehog just one big thing. So said Archilochos, the 7th century BC Greek poet. Like the hedgehog, Warren Buffett, the billionaire from Omaha, Nebraska, knows one very big thing - how to invest.

game away on Monday. "We have such a fingers and toes style about Berkshire Hathaway. Warren always talks about these discounted cash flows - I've never seen him do one." Buffett replied: "There are some things you only do in private."

He admitted the 1989 investment of \$358m in USAir preferred stock was one mistake. "We'd have been a lot better off if I'd just gone to a bar that night instead," he confessed.

But Buffett is clearly confident about his latest big bet, the acquisition of the half of Geico that Berkshire did not own already.

Advertisement for Perpetual investment funds, featuring a large image of a hedgehog and text describing the company's investment strategy and performance.

Jarvis Hotels, which operates a middle-market chain aimed at business travellers, this week announced plans to float on the stock market in a move likely to value it in excess of £250m, writes Christopher Price.

Bids

The number of independent UK regional electricity companies fell to five this week after Midlands Electricity agreed to a £1.73bn takeover bid from Avon Energy, a new company formed by two US utilities - General Public Utilities and Cinergy of Ohio, writes Patrick Horserson.

turnover 13 per cent higher at £101.7m. The company is hoping to raise £100m from the float in order to reduce debt.

Formed six years ago by John Jarvis, chairman and

chief executive, the former Hilton Hotels executive stands to make £5m from the float, should he decide to sell his 2 per cent stake.

Jarvis said a restructured balance sheet would enable

the company to pursue expansion. "There are very many opportunities out there in the UK market place which we are keen to exploit."

Jarvis is opening up the flotation to private investors, an increasingly rare move since the Stock Exchange changed the rules in favour of institutional investors at the start of the year.

Prospective private investors can register for the float through a number of share shops. An information line, 0345-445566, has been set up for inquiries. SBC Warburg and UBS are joint sponsors and brokers to the issue.

5 out of 10 funds are in the top 25% of their sectors for performance over 5 years. Position as at 1st May 1996 and are on an offer-to-offer US Dollar basis, inclusive of removed income, net of withholding taxes (source: Mitraper). Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. The value of an investment and the income from it can go down as well as up as its value may be a result of exchange rate fluctuations and you may not get back the amount invested.

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Main table containing financial data for various unit trusts, including columns for fund names, managers, and performance metrics.

Guide to pricing of Authorised Unit Trusts. Includes sections for Initial Charge, Historic Pricing, Buying Price, Selling Price, Forward Pricing, Treatment of Manager's Periodic Charge, Scheme Particulars and Reports, and Exit Charges.

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Main table containing various fund categories: Old Mutual Fund Managers Ltd, Royal Bank of Scotland, Slingsby & Richardson, Woodwich Unit Trust Managers, AXA Equity & Law Life Assurances, British Life Group, Eagle Star Life Assurance Co Ltd, and others. Each entry lists fund names, unit prices, and performance metrics.

OTHER UK UNIT TRUSTS

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INSURANCES

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Main table containing various fund categories such as 'Investment Funds', 'Equity Funds', 'Fixed Income Funds', and 'Money Market Funds'. Each entry includes the fund name, its performance metrics, and the managing company.

Money Market Trust Funds. A list of various money market trust funds with their respective performance data and details.

Money Market Bank Accounts. A list of various money market bank accounts with their respective performance data and details.

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MANAGEMENT SERVICES. A list of various management services including financial planning, investment management, and estate planning, provided by different firms.

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OFFSHORE AND OVERSEAS

BERMUDA (SIB RECOGNISED)

Table listing Bermuda (SIB Recognised) funds including Fidelity Currency Funds Ltd, Royal Bank of Canada US Fd Mgrs Ltd, and various other investment vehicles.

BERMUDA (REGULATED)**

Table listing Bermuda (Regulated) funds including Bermuda Int'l Invest Mgmt Ltd, Royal Bank of Canada US Fd Mgrs Ltd, and various other investment vehicles.

GUERNSEY (SIB RECOGNISED)

Table listing Guernsey (SIB Recognised) funds including AIB Investment Managers (Guernsey) Ltd, Royal Bank of Canada US Fd Mgrs Ltd, and various other investment vehicles.

GUERNSEY (REGULATED)**

Table listing Guernsey (Regulated) funds including AIB Investment Managers (Guernsey) Ltd, Royal Bank of Canada US Fd Mgrs Ltd, and various other investment vehicles.

IRELAND (SIB RECOGNISED)

Table listing Ireland (SIB Recognised) funds including AIB Fund Management Ltd, Royal Bank of Canada US Fd Mgrs Ltd, and various other investment vehicles.

IRELAND (REGULATED)**

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GUERNSEY (REGULATED)**

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IRELAND (REGULATED)**

Table listing Ireland (Regulated) funds including AIB Fund Management Ltd, Royal Bank of Canada US Fd Mgrs Ltd, and various other investment vehicles.

ISLE OF MAN (SIB RECOGNISED)

Table listing Isle of Man (SIB Recognised) funds including AIA Equity & Law Ltd, Royal Bank of Canada US Fd Mgrs Ltd, and various other investment vehicles.

ISLE OF MAN (REGULATED)**

Table listing Isle of Man (Regulated) funds including AIA Equity & Law Ltd, Royal Bank of Canada US Fd Mgrs Ltd, and various other investment vehicles.

DELTA EUROPE FUND MGRS IRELAND LTD

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DELTA EUROPE FUND MGRS IRELAND LTD

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ISLE OF MAN (SIB RECOGNISED)

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ISLE OF MAN (REGULATED)**

Table listing Isle of Man (Regulated) funds including AIA Equity & Law Ltd, Royal Bank of Canada US Fd Mgrs Ltd, and various other investment vehicles.

JERSEY (SIB RECOGNISED)

Table listing Jersey (SIB Recognised) funds including AIB Fund Managers (CI) Ltd, Royal Bank of Canada US Fd Mgrs Ltd, and various other investment vehicles.

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FIDELITY FUNDS (SIB RECOGNISED)

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S-S-BANKEN LUXEMBOURG SA - CONT.

Table listing S-S-Banken Luxembourg SA - Cont. funds including S-S-Banken Luxembourg SA - Cont., Royal Bank of Canada US Fd Mgrs Ltd, and various other investment vehicles.

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Handwritten note: 20/11/95

FT MANAGED FUNDS SERVICE

FT Cityline Unit Trust Prices are available over the telephone. Call the FT Cityline Help Desk on (444 471) 875 4376 for more details.

Main table containing financial data for various funds, including columns for fund names, prices, and changes. Includes sub-sections for 'OTHER OFFSHORE FUNDS' and 'OFFSHORE INSURANCES'.

MANAGED FUNDS NOTES: Points out to users about the fund's performance and provides additional information regarding the fund's investment strategy and risks.

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

Main table of world stock markets including sections for NORTH AMERICA, EUROPE, CANADA, AUSTRALIA, SOUTH AFRICA, AFRICA, and ASIA. Each section lists various stock indices and individual company shares with their respective prices and changes.

Advertisement for Rockwell: 'From automotive to automation, Rockwell gets your business moving'. Includes the Rockwell logo and a stylized image of a car.

INDEX FUTURES section containing data for various market indices such as S&P 500, DAX, Nikkei, and others, along with their open, high, low, and close prices.

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WORLD STOCK MARKETS

AMERICA

Long-term rates decline boosts Dow

Wall Street

US share prices were higher in midday trading yesterday as figures showing that inflationary pressures remained subdued helped to push long-term interest rates below 7 per cent writes Lisa Branstetter in New York.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average jumped more than 57 points in the first half hour of trading, but by early afternoon it had settled back to a gain of 38.74 to 5,614.88. The Standard & Poor's 500 rose 5.29 to 550.73 and the American Stock Exchange composite gained 3.23 to 560.44. Volume on the New York Stock Exchange came to 261m shares.

Both stocks and bonds were cheered by the Labor Department's report that the producer price index rose 0.4 per cent in April, less than the 0.5 per cent rise many economists had expected.

with Micron Technology falling 3% at \$38 and Texas Instruments 5% lower at \$53.1, while Intel added 3% at \$69 and Applied Materials was 3% stronger at \$33.7.

turnover rose from DM8.2bn to DM8.6bn. In banks, Dresdner reported a surge in first quarter net income, gave a lot of credit to its Kleinwort Benson acquisition in the UK, went to a DM1.50 dividend and rose a net 50 pfg to DM37.22.

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EUROPE

Bourses respond to softening US price data

Softer than expected US April producer price data brought recoveries in the dollar, bonds and the Dow. Bourses responded and FRANKFURT, after trading in a morning range which covered less than six index points, just failed to break 2,500 as the Dax closed 28.45 higher at an ibis-indicated 2,499.02.

THE WEEK'S CHANGES

Table showing percentage changes for various European indices: Frankfurt (+1.1), Amsterdam (+0.1), Stockholm (+0.4), Madrid (w/c), Milan (w/c), Brussels (w/c), Helsinki (-1.4), Zurich (-1.5).

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Latin America

Sao Paulo saw profit-taking after its recent gains and in the commission trade, the Bovespa index was 129.55 weaker at 53,755.

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French bourse begins to fulfil its promise

But it has fallen back recently, says David Owen

You might look at it as the Damon Hill of European markets. For some years, great things have been expected of French stocks, but their performance has been disappointing. Lately, however, like the British racing driver, they have started to fulfil their promise.

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ASIA PACIFIC

Nikkei edges up as Taipei rebounds

Concern over possible increases in interest rates at home and abroad was the day's dominant theme, but the Nikkei average closed marginally higher after fluctuating within a narrow range, writes Erika Terazono in Tokyo.

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SOUTH AFRICA

Johannesburg was broadly firmer although industrials were off their best levels and golds eased on a softer bullion price and firmer rand.

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LONDON EQUITIES

Table showing London Equities performance: British Funds, Other Fixed Interest, Mineral Extraction, General Manufacturers, Consumer Goods, Services, Utilities, Financials, Investment Trusts, Others.

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LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE: Dealings

Details of business done shown below have been taken with consent from last Thursday's Stock Exchange Official List and should not be reproduced without permission.

British Funds, etc

Treasury 13 1/2% Stk 2003-05 - £122.40
Enochson 10 1/2% Stk 2005 - £116.10

Corporation and County Stocks

Birmingham District Council 11 1/2% Red Stk 2012 - £115.00
Lancaster City Council 7 1/2% Stk 2010-12-13-14

UK Public Bonds

Govt of London Authority 3 1/2% Stk 4830 - £82.40
Govt of London Authority 3 1/2% Stk 4830 - £82.40

Foreign Stocks, Bonds, etc

Abney National Treasury Series PLC 7 1/2% Stk 1988 (5 Yr) - £102.50
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Starting Issues by Overseas Bondholders

European Investment Bank 9% Ln Stk 2001 (10 Yr) - £104.70
European Investment Bank 9% Ln Stk 2001 (10 Yr) - £104.70

Listed Companies (excluding Investment Trusts)

ABF Investments PLC 5 1/2% Ln Stk 877 2002-05 - £102.50
ABF Investments PLC 7 1/2% Ln Stk 877 2002-05 - £102.50

FT-SE ACTUARIES INDICES

The FT-SE Actuarial Share Indices are calculated by FT-SE International Limited in conjunction with the Faculty of Actuaries and the Institute of Actuaries.

Balfour Beatty PLC 5 1/2% 2nd Cum Prt £1 - 115.00
Balfour Beatty PLC 7 1/2% Cum Prt £1 - 115.00

Barclays Bank PLC 10 1/2% Subord Bds 2003 (5 Yr) - £100.00
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Table with 4 columns: Company Name, Dividend Amount, Dividend Yield, and Dividend Date. Includes Royal PTT Nedeland NV.

Rectification

The annual general meeting of shareholders held on May 9, 1996 has declared a 1995 dividend of NLG 2.60 per ordinary share of NLG 10 par value.

Depending on the preferences stated by the shareholders, the final dividend will be paid out entirely in cash or entirely in ordinary shares.

The final dividend will be payable on May 23, 1996.

In exchange for 38 dividend rights the holders of ordinary shares who have opted for payment in shares will receive one ordinary share of NLG 10 par value, entitling them to a full share of the net income in 1996 and subsequent years.

Dividend rights must be submitted to ABN AMRO Bank N.V. in Amsterdam, ING Bank N.V. in Amsterdam or Rabobank Nederland in Utrecht.

The Board of Management Groningen, May 10, 1996

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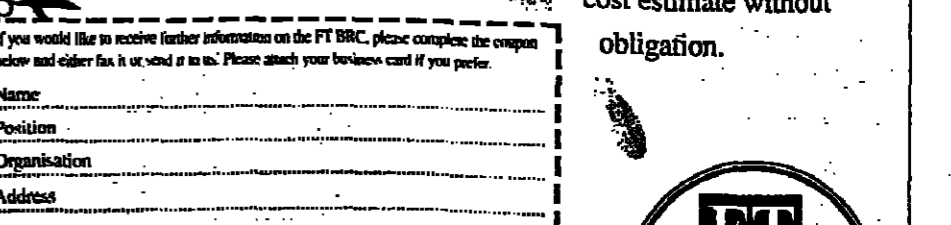
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LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE

MARKET REPORT

Shares revive and Footsie closes up on week

By Steve Thompson, UK Stock Market Editor

A reassuring set of producer price numbers from the US saw Wall Street race higher in early trading and gave UK equities a substantial boost in the am, enabling the FT-SE 100 index to finish a troubled week with a marginal rise in points.

imminent. The usual predatory suspects, GKN, Germany's Siemens and General Motors of the US, were mentioned.

Lucas has already announced it is holding talks with Vario of the US about closer ties. Turnover in Lucas reached 18m shares, the third highest on record.

The overwhelming driving force behind global markets, however, was the US. The 0.4 per cent increase in producer prices was slightly below consensus estimates and triggered an instant half-point surge in US treasury bonds and took the yield on the long bond below the 7 per cent level.

European bond markets moved sharply higher, lifting equities at the same time. Dealers said the lack of US inflationary pressures meant the chances of a rise in interest rates after the next meeting of the Federal Reserve's Open Market Committee were much diminished.

set by substantial underperformance in Laird Group, Caradon and United Biscuits. Laird gave easily the worst performance of any of London's top 350 stocks, sliding over 6 per cent on a profits warning. The FT-SE Mid 250 posted 7.4 up at 4,512.8.

FT-SE-A All-Share Index

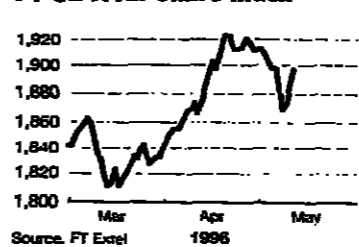


Table with 3 columns: Index and 250, Index and 350, Index and All-Share. Values include 4512.8, 1903.1, 1888.05, etc.

Equity shares traded

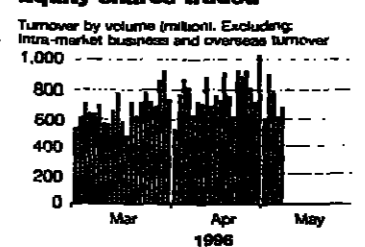


Table with 2 columns: Index and Closing index for May 10. Values include 3754.4, 3728.3, 3707.3, etc.

TRADING VOLUME IN MAJOR STOCKS

Table listing trading volume for major stocks including ABBA Group, Alcan, Alstom, etc. Columns include Vol, Chng, and Day's change.

EQUITY FUTURES AND OPTIONS TRADING

Stock index futures surged strongly for the second day running. As a result, the FT-SE 100 June contract ended a volatile week with a net decline of just seven points, writes Jeffrey Brown.

Table showing FT-SE 100 Index Futures (Liffe) and FT-SE 100 Index Options (Liffe) with columns for Open, Settle, High, Low, etc.

NEW 52 WEEK HIGHS AND LOWS

Table listing new 52 week highs and lows for various stocks, including ABBA Group, Alcan, Alstom, etc.

Reuters buy-back alert

There have been rumours that Reuters will buy back its own shares for about six months now. But they returned with a vengeance yesterday with some analysts who follow the company very closely suggesting the board is now on red alert.

Market talk yesterday suggested that tax authorities in the UK and US have both given approval for a buy-back and the news and financial information group is poised to offload what has become an embarrassment of riches very shortly.

Gas expands

British Gas, which has been badly deflated by regulatory worries, lifted 4.1 per cent on the eve of a key pricing review. On Monday, Ms Clare Sprouthwood, is expected to recommend cuts of between 10 and 20 per cent in the amount that Transco, the company's pipeline business, can charge to suppliers.

CHIEF PRICE CHANGES YESTERDAY

Table listing price changes for various companies like British Gas, Alstom, etc. Columns include company name and price change.

TI would launch the bid in conjunction with German group Siemens, Lucas rose 11 to 234p, as turnover soared to 18m. TI declined 6 to 546p.

UBS reiterates its 'buy' stance

UBS reiterated its 'buy' stance on Burton from Anglo-Swedish group Avista Sheffield. The stock fell 5 1/2 to 188 1/2.

FT-SE Actuaries Share Indices

Table showing FT-SE Actuaries Share Indices for various sectors like 10 Industrial, 15 Oil, etc.

The UK Series

Table showing The UK Series indices for various sectors like 10 Industrial, 15 Oil, etc.

FT-SE Actuaries All-Share

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FT-SE Actuaries 350 Industry baskets

Table showing FT-SE Actuaries 350 Industry baskets for various sectors like 10 Industrial, 15 Oil, etc.

Hourly movements

Table showing hourly movements for FT-SE 100, FT-SE Mid 250, FT-SE-A 350.

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COMBAT STRESS advertisement featuring a soldier and the slogan 'Bringing peace to minds at war'. Includes contact information for Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society.

Advertisement for Fidelity Self-Select PEP, offering a 0.5% annual fee and a £150 capped fee. Includes contact information for Fidelity Brokers.

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RV TRUSTS SPLIT CAPITAL - Cont.

Table listing RV Trusts with columns for Name, Price, and other financial metrics.

LEISURE & HOTELS - Cont.

Table listing Leisure & Hotels companies with columns for Name, Price, and other financial metrics.

OTHER FINANCIAL - Cont.

Table listing Other Financial companies with columns for Name, Price, and other financial metrics.

PROPERTY - Cont.

Table listing Property companies with columns for Name, Price, and other financial metrics.

SUPPORT SERVICES - Cont.

Table listing Support Services companies with columns for Name, Price, and other financial metrics.

AIM - Cont.

Table listing AIM companies with columns for Name, Price, and other financial metrics.

OTHER INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table listing Other Investment Trusts with columns for Name, Price, and other financial metrics.

LIFE ASSURANCE

Table listing Life Assurance companies with columns for Name, Price, and other financial metrics.

PAPER, PACKAGING & PRINTING

Table listing Paper, Packaging & Printing companies with columns for Name, Price, and other financial metrics.

RETAILERS, FOOD

Table listing Retailers, Food companies with columns for Name, Price, and other financial metrics.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Table listing Telecommunications companies with columns for Name, Price, and other financial metrics.

AMERICANS

Table listing American companies with columns for Name, Price, and other financial metrics.

INVESTMENT COMPANIES

Table listing Investment Companies with columns for Name, Price, and other financial metrics.

MEDIA

Table listing Media companies with columns for Name, Price, and other financial metrics.

PHARMACEUTICALS

Table listing Pharmaceuticals companies with columns for Name, Price, and other financial metrics.

RETAILERS, GENERAL

Table listing Retailers, General companies with columns for Name, Price, and other financial metrics.

TEXTILES & APPAREL

Table listing Textiles & Apparel companies with columns for Name, Price, and other financial metrics.

CANADIANS

Table listing Canadian companies with columns for Name, Price, and other financial metrics.

OIL EXPLORATION & PRODUCTION

Table listing Oil Exploration & Production companies with columns for Name, Price, and other financial metrics.

PROPERTY

Table listing Property companies with columns for Name, Price, and other financial metrics.

RETAILERS, GENERAL - Cont.

Table listing Retailers, General companies with columns for Name, Price, and other financial metrics.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Table listing Support Services companies with columns for Name, Price, and other financial metrics.

WATER

Table listing Water companies with columns for Name, Price, and other financial metrics.

AIM

Table listing AIM companies with columns for Name, Price, and other financial metrics.

LEISURE & HOTELS

Table listing Leisure & Hotels companies with columns for Name, Price, and other financial metrics.

OTHER FINANCIAL

Table listing Other Financial companies with columns for Name, Price, and other financial metrics.

PHARMACEUTICALS - Cont.

Table listing Pharmaceuticals companies with columns for Name, Price, and other financial metrics.

PROPERTY - Cont.

Table listing Property companies with columns for Name, Price, and other financial metrics.

TRANSPORT

Table listing Transport companies with columns for Name, Price, and other financial metrics.

SOUTH AFRICANS

Table listing South African companies with columns for Name, Price, and other financial metrics.

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- 1. Includes the most actively traded stocks. This includes UK stocks where investment and price are published consistently in the Stock Exchange Automated Quotation System (SEAI) and non UK stocks through the SEAI International section.

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Profit-sharing deal gives London firm stable link to broker

Rothschild in Dutch bank tie-up

By John Gapper in London N.M. Rothschild & Sons, the private merchant bank, yesterday clarified its future strategy by setting up an alliance with ABN Amro, the largest Dutch bank to underwrite and distribute shares internationally.

The profit-sharing deal will plug a gap created last year when the US investment bank Merrill Lynch bought the UK firm Smith New Court, in which Rothschild had a 25 per cent stake. It left Rothschild without a stable link to a broker.

Three directors of Rothschild have left the bank this year, prompting doubts over its strategy. Sir Evelyn de Rothschild, the chairman and chief shareholder, reiterated yesterday that the institution would retain its independence from larger banks.

Mr Kalfif said that if Rothschild changed its mind and said it was willing for ABN Amro to buy a stake, he would consider this seriously. "If it was suggested by Rothschild, then that would definitely be a thing to investigate," he said.

Lloyd's lifts offer to Names

Continued from Page 1... will double to about 10,000. Those expected to face the maximum £100,000 bill, after exhausting funds held at Lloyd's, will halve to fewer than 3,000.

Crazy Eddie faces jail for \$74m fraud

By Richard Tomkins in New York It's all over for Crazy Eddie. Seven years after being fingered for perpetrating one of the biggest stock market swindles in US corporate history, Eddie Antar has finally pleaded guilty.

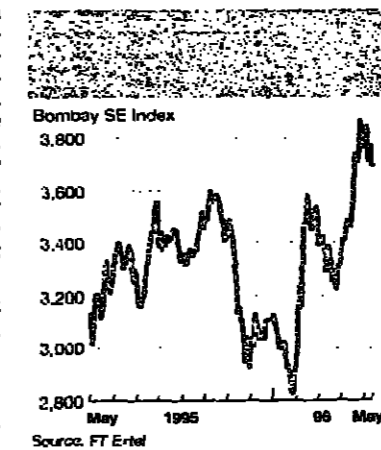
Sumitomo to cut lending and asset base

Continued from Page 1... move by Sumitomo, long seen as a trend-setter among the country's largest commercial banks, is likely to be widely followed.

THE LEX COLUMN Indian pickle

All in all, the markets have taken India's elections pretty calmly - surprisingly so, considering that the pro-reform Congress party has been comprehensively hammered: that the most likely replacement will be a fragile coalition; and that this could well include the Janata Dal social justice party and its nominally communist allies.

Kvaerner paid for its 26 per cent stake, so this can be sold for a profit. That would take some pressure off Kvaerner's highly stretched post-Trafalgar balance sheet. Nonetheless, it is Trafalgar's accident-prone Canal line which is the most crucial disposal, since it will require substantial investment if it is retained.



14 US troops killed in Anglo-American exercise

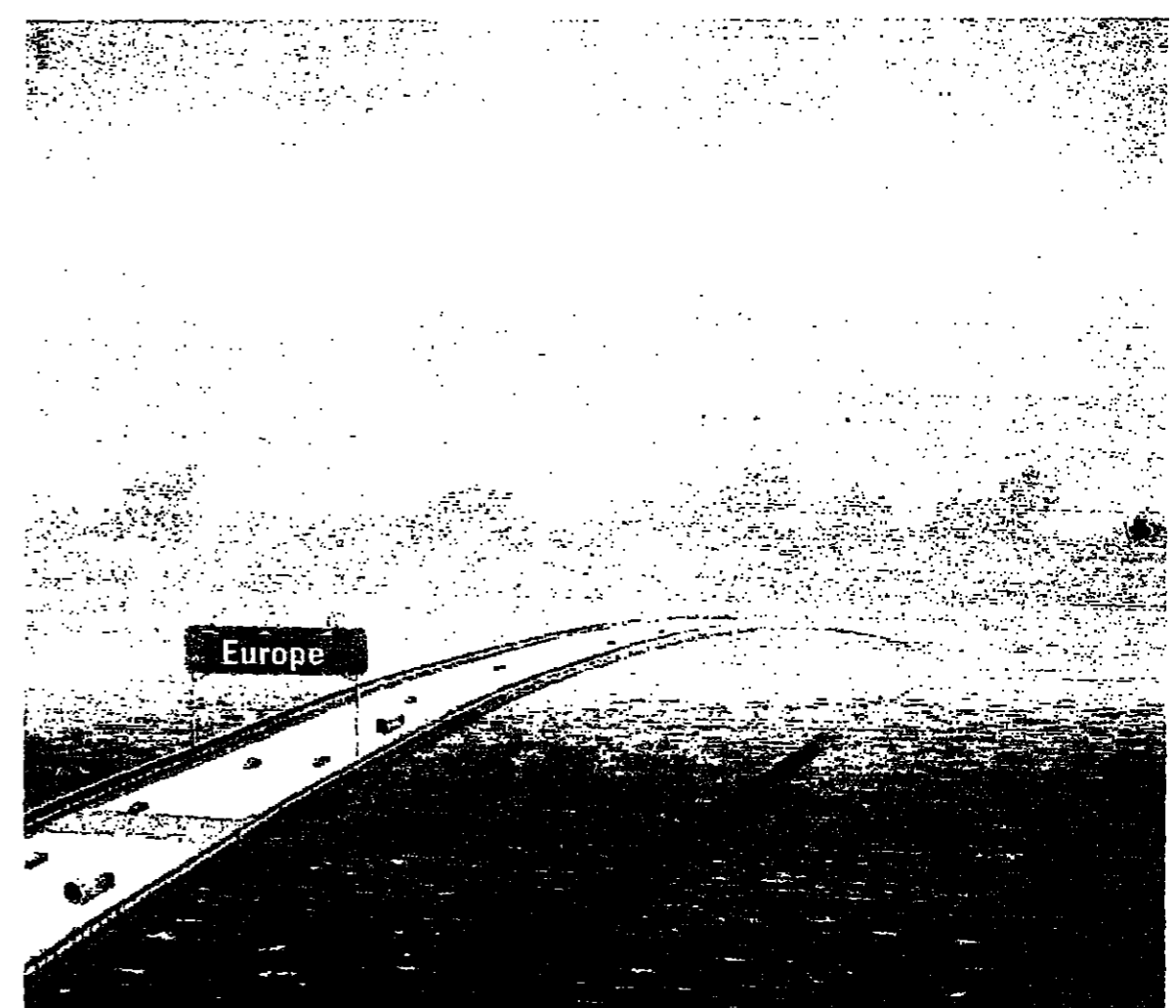
Continued from Page 1... carrier USS Enterprise and the marine command ship Salpan, and 27 British vessels led by the aircraft carrier HMS Illustrious and marine command ship HMS Fearless, the landing zone was extremely crowded.

landing craft crews were having to thread careful paths through the bay area to avoid collisions, and the clutter of helicopters in the darkness merged into a continuous roar.

No explanation has yet been offered by the Pentagon for the accident, but air traffic control in the landing zone at the time is bound to come under intense scrutiny.

As soon as the accident had been reported, all air operations were suspended - including an assault by airborne troops which was scheduled to begin precisely as the crash happened and which was aborted as the first troops landed.

Weather guide section including 'Europe today', 'Five-day forecast', and a table of 'TODAY'S TEMPERATURES' for various global cities.



Global banking made in Germany. WestLB advertisement with text: 'The world is shrinking. Whereas your source is growing. Theoretically. And practically? Whenever you wish to make more than just a small move, include the WestLB in your plans.'

Handwritten Arabic text: 'السنة 1315 هـ' (Year 1315 AH)